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CONFIDENTIAL.

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424

PART LXX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

125

April to June 1882.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LXX.

No. 1.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 216.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 25,* 1882.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 114 of the 10th instant, instructing me to ascertain the views of my colleagues relative to the advisability of the Powers who were parties to the Greco-Turkish Convention of the 24th May last taking steps for recording their assent to the Act signed by the Boundary Commissioners, I beg to state that it appears to be the general feeling of the Representatives here that, inasmuch as there are still two or three points connected with the Turco-Greek delimitation, in contestation it would be premature for the Powers to move in the matter at present, especially as there is a likelihood of at all events two of the points being amicably settled between the Turkish and the Greek Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 224.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 26,* 1882.

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's telegram to your Lordship No. 7 of the 12th instant, reporting the proposition of the Prince of Montenegro with a view to the settlement of the frontier question, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have been endeavouring to ascertain the views of the Sublime Porte with regard to it. The Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs maintains that of the two villages mentioned in Mr. Green's telegram as being offered by the Prince of Montenegro to the Porte, one only, Matagos, was awarded to Montenegro, and that the other, Vladnja, still belongs to Turkey.

His Excellency stated that the Sublime Porte was inclined to negotiate directly with the Prince of Montenegro, through its Representative at Cettinjé, with regard to the settlement of the frontier in the Podgoritza plain, but that it would not open negotiations until it had learnt the views of the Ministry of War, to which it is about to submit a Report on the subject.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Mr. Green.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 226. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 27, 1882.*

I UNDERSTAND that the Porte still remains firm in its objections to the Palace scheme for the settlement of the Russian indemnity; and, what is altogether a novel circumstance, it bases its opposition on the plea of the Ministers being the Sultan's responsible and constitutional advisers, and that, consequently, it would be impossible for them to subscribe to an arrangement which does not meet with their approval.

This is very significant.

It is rumoured that Saïd Pasha has again tendered his resignation, and that Abdurrahman Pasha would be his successor. Abdurrahman Pasha is quite an unknown man, and it is concluded that, were any such change effected, Saïd Pasha would still remain the secret and intimate, but irresponsible, adviser of His Majesty.

Saïd Pasha, in private conversation with me, has frequently enlarged upon the unconstitutional conduct of the Sultan, and has more than once expressed a hope that your Lordship might be able to induce His Majesty to introduce Parliamentary institutions into Turkey, which he seems to consider the best means for reinvigorating the political machine. On the other hand, it is objected against Saïd Pasha by his enemies, and probably with justice, that he is the principal author of the present system of personal government in Turkey; that by his cringing and base docility when he was first promoted to office he led his master to adopt his present imperious and autocratic habits, and that he is now reaping the fruits of what he himself has sown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 4.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

E
(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March 24, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of an extract from the Official Journal, containing a communication from the Russian Agent and Consul-General to the effect that, in order to put an end to the reports in the foreign press representing the Russians as supporters of the agitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and accusing them of meddling with the political affairs of the Balkan Peninsula, he had called a meeting of the notables of the Russian Colony at Sophia, and had warned them to be more than ever on their guard in what they do and say, and to abstain from all interference in the affairs of foreign policy and of the parties in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Extract from the "Official Journal" of March 21, 1882.

(Translation.)

WE have received for publication the following communication from the Russian Imperial Diplomatic Agent at Sophia:—

"The foreign press has lately been full of deceptive rumours and reports, representing the Russians as the supporters of an agitation in favour of the insurgents in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are accused of meddling with the foreign political affairs of the Balkan Peninsula, in the same way that they were accused on a former occasion of direct interference in the interior policy of the Principality.

"With the object of putting an end to these false reports, the Russian Imperial Diplomatic Agent on Friday last, the $\frac{5}{17}$th March, summoned to the Agency all the notables of the Russian Colony in Sophia, both military and civil, and announced to them that the Imperial Government, convinced of the falsity of these rumours, but at the same time anxious that no such accusation should rest upon the Russians in Bulgaria, recommends them at the present time more than ever to be on their guard

in what they do and in what they say. The Government of His Majesty expects from them, as before, the exact fulfilment of their duty, as well as their abstention from all interference in the affairs of foreign policy and of the parties in the Principality."

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 154. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 30, 1882.*

THE article from the "Novoe Vremya," recommending a European Congress on the affairs of Bosnia, forwarded by Sir E. Thornton in his despatch to your Lordship No. 95, had not escaped the attention of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

They consider that, although the article may probably have been inspired by General Ignatieff, and represents his views, it does not convey those either of the Emperor or of his Minister for Foreign Affairs.

It is, indeed, hardly to be supposed that, unless the Russian Government were prepared to abandon all hopes of maintaining cordial relations with this country, they would support a proposal which, as they must be aware, would be peremptorily rejected by Austria.

It might be successfully represented that, in applying the military law to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, Austria took a step which it might be difficult to reconcile with the position assigned to her by the Treaty of Berlin, and encroached upon the rights reserved to the Sultan, but the latter made no protests against it, and appears now to be less likely to do so than ever, and it may be regarded as certain that no interference by foreign Powers respecting the administration of the two Provinces would be admitted for a moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 6.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 26, 1882.*

I HAVE learnt within the last few days from sources which are not official, but which are sufficiently trustworthy, that Montenegrins, to a certain extent, now do pass and repass the Herzegovinian frontier and assist the insurgents, and that an impression is gaining ground in the Principality that later on the Montenegrin Government will permit a considerable increase in these incursions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 7.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 39. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 28, 1882.*

REPORTS have reached me lately from several sources, and in some of these I can place implicit confidence, that Hellenic agents are again, both in Epirus and Middle Albania, actively engaged in endeavouring to form a pro-Hellenic party by gaining over to their views, through promises of large pecuniary advances and other advantages, some of the most influential feudal Chiefs of those provinces.

I have not been able to ascertain that, as yet, any success has attended these secret proceedings, although considerable discontent appears to exist on the part of the Beys of Middle Albania against the Porte, owing to the severity with which it is still treating many of their number, who were, when the Albanian League was dissolved a year ago, imprisoned and exiled.

The failure which is now being experienced by the Greek Agents may, I believe, be more justly attributed to the personal standing and character of those agents rather than to an inherent disinclination on the part of the Albanian Chiefs to compromise themselves in political undertakings of so serious a nature.

The disaffection is indeed so general among these Chiefs and their followers that they might, without difficulty, be led to aid in bringing about a change in the position of their country, if such change happened to be advocated by capable and trustworthy men, with valid credentials from the influential quarters, under whose guidance they were working.

It is not quite impossible that the Turkish Government may have become aware of these intrigues, for it is strengthening its garrison in the districts in which they are being carried on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 8.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)
Scutari, March 28, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I learn from a person who has just traversed a considerable part of Macedonia and North-east Albania, and in whom reliance can be placed, that, although he has found the country he has passed through fairly safe and quiet, he has still observed a kind of loosening of the reins of government over the Mahommedan portions of the inhabitants, as if intended to give them confidence of obtaining the advantage in all matters of dispute between themselves and their Christian fellow-countrymen.

My informant further states that he also observed the existence of a general feeling of uneasiness as to the early future, and an evident readiness on all sides for a coming struggle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 9.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 11.)
Serajevo, March 29, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, Political, of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that during the past week the state of the country has been rather less satisfactory. Although the back of the insurrection is undoubtedly broken, there seems no inclination on the part of the insurgents to make their submission, and numerous small bands still infest the country, and avail themselves of any favourable opportunity to attack convoys, patrols, and outlying military posts. This is especially the case in the country lying between the Drina, Lim, and Tara Rivers, and several encounters with the troops have occurred of late in those regions. A band of some sixty men is also said to frequent the Igman Mountain, about 8 miles to the west of Serajevo.

According to very reliable native information, few of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian insurgents have as yet passed into Montenegro, and a considerable number still hold the almost inaccessible Treskovac Planina, situated between Foča and Gacko, near the Montenegrin district of Piva, and whither the Austrian troops have not yet penetrated. If Montenegro, however, loyally prevent the passage of armed bands across her frontier, they must eventually either submit or disperse.

As I have already said, the strength of the revolt is broken, and the military force now in the country should be sufficient to prevent any fresh outbreak; but it seems probable that the insurrection will now assume that chronic form of semi-brigandage which has so often obtained in these provinces, and which will require time, energy, and patience to overcome.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 10.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 12.)
Serajevo, April 1, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11, Political, of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that within the last few days there has been a considerable concentration of insurgents in the neighbourhood of Kozara, between Goražda and Čajnica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 11.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 239.)
Constantinople, April 1, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 224 of the 26th ultimo on the subject of the proposed abandonment by the Prince of Montenegro of his claim to the villages of Matagos and Vladnja, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Assim Pasha has stated to me that Riza Bey had addressed him a Report on the subject that the matter was now under consideration, and that the Sublime Porte would very probably come to a favourable decision with regard to it.

I took the opportunity of informing his Excellency that Mr. Green was of opinion that the offer should be accepted.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to Mr. Green.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 12.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 242. Confidential.)
Constantinople, April 2, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Green's despatch to your Lordship No. 27, Most Confidential, of the 9th ultimo, on the subject of the share supposed to be taken by the Ottoman Government in the present insurrectionary movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have reason to believe that the Austrian Embassy here is satisfied that the Turks have loyally abstained from all intrigues in the occupied provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 13.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 245.)
Constantinople, April 2, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prenk Bib Doda, the Mirdite Chief, has been at length set at liberty, and that he is at present employed on the Staff of General Baker Pasha.

The Prince came to thank me the other day for my exertions on his behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 14.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 257.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 3, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Jones on the subject of attempts to produce an insurrectionary movement in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 30, 1882.*

ON the 24th instant I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency to the effect that a certain Bulgarian of Macedonia, calling himself the Voivode Kermanlia, had been arrested under suspicion of brigandage in the forest of Bellova, but as no overt act of this nature could as yet be proved he might shortly be set at liberty, and that possibly the Turkish authorities might have some criminal charge to bring against him which would warrant his detention.

He himself repudiates the character of brigand, and maintains that his sole object is to cross over into Macedonia for the purpose of raising that province against the Turkish rule, and pretends to be able to dispose of 500 followers in the cause.

Shortly after his incarceration a letter was received by the local authorities from one Kokolitz (calling himself the other's lieutenant), threatening that if his Chief were not at once released, he would at once destroy all the villages in his neighbourhood.

Kremenlia likewise states that he has just been released from prison by the authorities of Samakov in Bulgaria, for the purpose of exciting a insurrection in Macedonia, and the Bailli of Ichtiman, on the Bulgarian frontier, reports to the authorities here that armed bands are frequently passing from the Principality towards the Macedonian frontier, and there is good reason to believe that a revolutionary committee has established itself at Samakov for this purpose.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that little sympathy with these proceedings is manifested in this province, where the national party is inclined to regard them rather as an effort made by the present Bulgarian Government to distract public attention from domestic troubles. I inclose translation of an article published by the organ of the national party here, which fairly represents the general feeling respecting the movement in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 15.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, April 2, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that news has been received here of a signal defeat inflicted on the insurgents by General Obadies, as they were attempting to cross the Tara at Čelebič in considerable force. It is described as a very brilliant affair; the insurgents suffered severely, and it is thought that it may not unlikely prove a fatal blow to the insurrection in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 16.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 2. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, April 5, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have recently heard that the Greek "Patriotic" Committees, which, on the arrival of the International Commission for the settlement of the new Turco-Greek frontier, had suspended their operations, are about to be reorganized and prepared for action at the proper moment.

The Branch Committees in this quarter, I am told, are to be at Corfu, Santa Maura, Arta, and Prevesa. The Corfu Branch is to be the head of all, but under that of Athens.

It appears that it has been considered that a sufficient time has already elapsed since the acquisition of Thessaly to justify their resuming their former position with a view to obtain Epirus.

The organization of the Committee here is being carried on so secretly and quietly, that it has been as yet impossible for me to obtain any reliable particulars.

I have, however, ascertained that a Mussulman Epirot, named Major Emin Effendi, who previous to the late cession of Thessaly came over to Greece, was appointed to a military post, and has been here ever since, is in communication with the Committee here, and also with many of the leading men in Epirus.

It is said that for the present Emin Effendi is working with a view to reconcile the Epirots to union with Greece, and it is hoped by the Greeks that, if he succeeds, through his means at the proper moment, such risings in Epirus may be effected as will lead to its union with Greece.

The disorders in Thessaly, chiefly at Larissa, as reported in the public journals, if true, are sure to exercise considerable influence in Epirus, particularly amongst the emigrants from the countries ceded to Greece who have settled in the district of Argyrocastro, and many of whom being but little accustomed to work would, most probably, be glad of an opportunity of rising to oppose all action on the part of these Committees, in such a way as to throw the whole province into the state of disorder and bloodshed it was during the raids of 1878.

Argyrocastro is about 40 miles from this, and about the same distance from Janina, and is the centre of the most fanatical Epirots. The Cadis of Turkey chiefly come from this place, where there is a sort of theological institution for their training. Emin Effendi's dereliction of Turkey is well known to all these people, who would be only too glad to get hold of him, and I should fear that were those with whom he is in communication found out, they might fare badly even before the occurrence of any movement, and the knowledge of his working with the Committee alone would be sure to augment the excitement of the Mussulman Epirots in general.

I am giving my closest attention to this subject, and will not fail to report whatever I may learn thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 17.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April 8, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt by extra messenger Stephens of your Lordship's despatch No. 16, dated 31st March last, and, in compliance with your instructions, I beg to forward a translation of the Law authorizing this Government to sell the Serban-Voda Inn, a portion of Crown Lands, to the National Bank, which was published in the official "Monitor" No. 249, on the 21st February last. This sale has, I understand, been completed since.

The note of the Turkish Ambassador to your Lordship was accompanied by a Protest, in which reference is made to similar sales as having taken place in the years 1868, 1871, and 1877, but I do not find that any action was taken at Bucharest on any of these occasions when property on which the Patriarchs had analogous claims was disposed of

by the Legislature of this Principality, nor would any benefit be likely to be derived from renewing such protests every time that property so situated changed hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Extract from the "Monitor Oficial" of February $\frac{9}{21}$, 1882.

(Translation.)

Ministry of Finance.

CAROL, by the grace of God and will of the people, King of Roumania. To all whom it may concern:

Greeting!

Seeing the Report of our Minister, the Secretary of State for the Finance Department, No. 4358;

And having in view the voting of the Chamber of Deputies, and of the Senate of the 21st January and 1st February, 1882;

In virtue of Articles 32 and 93 of the Constitution:

We have sanctioned and do hereby sanction:

We have promulgated and do promulgate:

Law.

Article 1. Approval of the Agreement by which the Administration of the Crown Lands and Forests sells to the National Bank for the price of 800,000 fr. the Serban-Voda Hotel in its actual limits, according to the plan drawn by the Administration, and which is shown in this Law.

Art. 2. The sum of 800,000 fr. will be deposited by the National Bank at the "Caisse de Consignations" conformably with Article 48 of the Law for the Alienation of a portion of the Property of the State.

Art. 3. The application of this Law, as far as relates to the scale of the Serban-Voda Hotel, will be carried out by the Minister of Finance.

We make known and ordain that these presents, sealed with the Seal of State and published in the "Monitor Oficial," shall be addressed to the Heads of the Administrative and Judicial authorities, to be inscribed in their registers to be observed for ever. Our Ministers of Finance and Justice are charged with the execution of this Decree.

Given at Bucharest, the 6th February, 1882.

(Signed) CAROL.
G. CHITU.

(Signed) G. Leca.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.

(No. 24.)

Foreign Office, April 14, 1882.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of a telegram purporting to be addressed to me by the representatives of the Mussulman land-owners at Lescovatz and Prokoplie complaining that the Servian Government has not carried out its engagements with them.

I have to request you to inform me, with reference to your despatch No. 152 of the 30th December last, what steps the Servian Government is taking to carry out its promise to compensate the Mussulman proprietors in accordance with the award of the Agrarian Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 19.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Ragusa, April 8, 1882.

IT was fully believed that after the occupation of Crivoscie a month ago General Jovanovich would march into Herzegovina to put down the rebellion in that province. His Excellency's departure, however, has been deferred from day to day, and now it is doubtful whether operations on an extensive scale will be necessary, as there appears to be no enemy to fight. Though insignificant encounters now and then take place the mass of the insurgents have hidden their arms and taken to the plough, so that General Jovanovich, when he leaves Ragusa—for his departure is still daily expected—will not meet with much resistance on his way to Mostar, where preparations are being made for his reception.

No reason is assigned for so sudden a suspension of hostilities on the part of the insurgents; but it is probable that the easy victory of the Austrian troops in Crivoscie, the presence of so large a force in Herzegovina, together with the paramount necessity of cultivating the land for future subsistence have had something to do with it.

In Crivoscie all appears to be quiet. The troops have overrun the mountains that a few weeks ago were inaccessible on account of the snow, and found them deserted.

The next question to be considered will be the better administration of the occupied provinces.

In my despatch No. 5 of the 23rd January last, I had the honour to bring the subject to your Lordship's notice, and to show that the insurrection was mainly, if not altogether, due to the incapacity and venality of the officials sent out to administrate a country where ability and integrity were indispensable. The shortcomings of those employed by the Government are now acknowledged by persons of high standing, both civil and military, with whom I have spoken on the subject; and there is every prospect, therefore, that a more competent staff will be organized and a different policy adopted.

The attempts to Germanize at once a people who claim to be Slavs, and who quite lately have thrown off the Turkish yoke, has decidedly failed.

If tranquillity is restored its maintenance—at all events for some time to come—will depend on the future Government of these provinces. It is probable that General Jovanovich will be intrusted with the task. A better choice could not be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 20.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Ragusa, April 10, 1882.

I HAVE been informed that there exists no longer any necessity for General Jovanovich to march into Herzegovina; and that in ten days or a fortnight his head-quarters at Ragusa will be broken up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 21.

E *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)*

(No. 271.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 10, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that instructions have been sent to Aleko Pasha to treat natives of Bosnia and Herzegovina residing in Eastern Roumelia as Ottoman subjects.

In giving these directions to his Excellency, the Sublime Porte states that Bosnia

and Herzegovina belong to the Ottoman Government, and are placed only provisionally under the administration of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 22.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

E
(No. 273.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 10, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have this day addressed to the Sublime Porte in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 160 of the 31st ultimo on the subject of the duties that are illegally levied upon the goods of British subjects moving between Ottoman and Bulgarian ports.

With regard to M. Calokerino's claim, to which your Lordship alludes in the concluding paragraph of the above-mentioned despatch, I have not as yet received a reply to the note which, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 37 of the 25th January, I addressed to the Sublime Porte, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 235 of the 29th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, April 9, 1882.

IT has come to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government that the goods of British merchants shipped from Ottoman to Bulgarian ports, or from Bulgarian ports to ports in the Ottoman Empire, are subjected first to an export duty of 8 per cent., and then to an import duty of the same amount.

Such a proceeding is contrary to existing Treaties, which require (see Article IV Anglo-Turkish Commercial Treaty of 1861) that—"No charge or duty whatever will be demanded on any article of Turkish produce or manufacture purchased by British subjects or their agents either at the place where such article is purchased, or in transit from that place to the place where it is exported, at which it will be subject to an export duty not exceeding 8 per cent. calculated on the value at the place of shipment, and payable on exportation, and that all articles which shall once have paid this duty shall not again be liable to the same duty, however they may have changed hands, within any part of the Ottoman dominions."

And again (see Article V of the same Treaty) it is stipulated that "the duties to be imposed on any article the produce or manufacture of the dominions or possessions of Her Britannic Majesty imported into the dominions or possessions of His Imperial Majesty shall in no case exceed one fixed rate of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* or specific duties fixed by common assent equivalent thereto."

Now, Bulgaria undoubtedly forms part of the Ottoman Empire, and although under the Treaty of Berlin the Principality may make Treaties with foreign Powers with reference to import and export duties, yet, until such Treaty arrangements shall have been concluded, all existing Treaties with the Sublime Porte remain in full force.

So far as British subjects are concerned, Her Majesty's Government must call upon the Sublime Porte either to recognize the Bulgarian Teskérés, as was done in the case of the Danubian Principalities previous to the late war, or to come to some new arrangement with Bulgaria, whereby the rights of British traders may be secured from injury.

Her Majesty's Embassy has accordingly the honour to draw the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to this matter, and to request that some measures may at once be adopted which will obviate the possibility of the goods of British subjects moving between

Ottoman and Bulgarian ports being subjected to any other or higher duties than were chargeable at the date of the Treaty of Berlin.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 23.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

E
(No. 276.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 11, 1882.*

I HAVE obtained the following additional information with reference to the passage through the Dardanelles of Russian ships carrying troops:—

As already stated in my despatch No. 183 of the 11th ultimo, the first vessel that passed through, the "Moskowa," flew the merchant flag, and it was only when she cast anchor at Constantinople that the Ottoman authorities discovered that there were 700 troops on board. After some difficulty this vessel was allowed to proceed.

The next Russian vessel that appeared was the "Nijni Novgorod," a ship belonging to the so-called Volunteer fleet, which had been chartered by the Russian Government to convey 500 prisoners, accompanied by a guard of 100 men, to Saghalien. As the "Nijni Novgorod" carried the Government ensign, the Porte objected strongly to her going through the Straits, and it was only after a considerable delay that the Sultan was persuaded to issue the necessary Firman, and to allow her to proceed on her voyage, which she did on the 7th instant.

The Russian Embassy in its communications with the Porte in reference to the foregoing incident has contended that the prohibition with regard to the passage of the Dardanelles applies only to ships of war, and not to merchant-vessels, no matter what flag the latter may carry, and that the fact of there being troops on board does not give the character of a man-of-war to the vessel.

I understand that the Porte does not accept this view of the case, and that the reservations under which it allowed the "Nijni Novgorod" to pass maintain the principle that in future prisoners are to be sent in the character of ordinary travellers, and not under a man-of-war flag, nor are they to be accompanied by soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 24.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 171. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 10, 1882.*

LORD DUFFERIN has mentioned to your Lordship the Sultan's belief in an immediate war between Russia and Austria.

His Majesty has not concealed this conviction from the Imperial Cabinet, and has frequently spoken as if a declaration of hostilities was to be expected from one day to another, and though assurances have been given from here that there is no ground for his apprehension, satisfaction is undoubtedly felt at the total change of feeling towards Austria that is apparant in the Sultan and the Turks in general.

After the Treaty of Berlin, which handed over two Turkish provinces to Austrian administration, the resentment against this country was scarcely less than that felt against Russia, and it was kept alive by those who sedulously insisted that Bosnia and the Herzegovina were meant to be stepping-stones to Salonica, but Count Andrássy used to declare that "we shall ultimately convince the Turks that we are their best friends, for we have a common interest in resisting a Slav advance, which is our common danger."

Baron Calice is a disciple of Count Andrássy, and has, no doubt, laboured in the sense of the views of his late chief, and judging not only from the remarkable article from the "Vakit" sent to your Lordship by Lord Dufferin some weeks ago, but from the general tone of the Turkish press, he appears to have worked with much success.

We must, I imagine, be prepared to see Austria exercise at Constantinople a

greater influence than she has previously enjoyed, for the Turks have the invariable habit of listening favourably to the one Power which they select as their best friend, and Austria was not only less inclined than the Western Powers to use pressure upon them in the frontier and reform negotiations, but is considered less well disposed than any of the others towards their hereditary Northern enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April* 12, 1882.

YOUR Lordship has directed my attention to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 27, Confidential, brought by this messenger, reporting that he was assured that Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, is the channel through which the Sultan or the Porte communicates with the Mahommedan insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

If the insurgents have been receiving any encouragement from Constantinople, the Austrian Government could not certainly have been ignorant of it, but they have continually and warmly recognized that the correctness of the attitude observed by the Porte from the commencement of the movement had greatly diminished the difficulties with which they had to deal.

The impression, on the contrary, prevails that most of the Mahommedans who joined the insurgents did so unwillingly, and under the compulsion of the bands which, as has always been their custom, threatened to burn the villages of those who refused to join them—a threat that was carried out in very many instances.

It must not be supposed, however, that the Bosnian Mussulmans have any sympathy for the Austrians, as the very reverse is the fact, but they, and especially those who are possessed of property, know that at the bottom of the discontent in that province there lies the agrarian question, and that they would fare badly if the Austrians were not there to protect them from spoliation and oppression.

With regard to the cruelties of which Mr. Kirby Green says that Riza Bey accuses the Austrian troops, I am unable to give your Lordship any information; but while it is impossible that these should have been frequent in such a well-disciplined army, it is by no means impossible that there may have been cases where the soldiers took savage retaliation upon finding the mutilated bodies of their comrades.

It was stated that upon one occasion the officers had difficulty in protecting some prisoners from the fury of their men upon finding one of their fallen officers who had been brutally defaced.

This occurred in the Crivosje, where the people keep to the practice so much indulged in by the Montenegrins in their last war with the Turks, of cutting off the noses of, and otherwise mutilating, those who fell either living or dead into their hands.

In the Herzegovina, on the contrary, the conduct of the insurgents appears to have been far more humane, and there are Austrian soldiers who have escaped, after having been some time prisoners in their hands, and who declared that they had been perfectly well treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 26.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, April* 15, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch No. 6 of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the steps taken by the provincial authorities for the extirpation of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, April* 15, 1882.

IT is with much satisfaction that I have the honour to report to your Excellency that energetic steps are now being taken by the provincial authorities against brigandage, a scourge from which this district has for the last few years suffered so very much. According to information received from M. Kypriotis, the following encounters appear to have recently taken place between the Imperial troops and the bands of Sotiris Papas and Sirákos, in all of which the brigands were the principal sufferers:—

1. At Pogtuorá Tsiflik the Chief, Sotiris Papas, and two of his band were killed.
2. At Brazia one brigand was killed and five wounded.
3. In the neighbourhood of Brazia one brigand and two soldiers were wounded.
4. At Tamarina two brigands were killed and a good many wounded.

A wounded brigand who had been captured at Brazia was brought to Janina, and it is reported that the heads of five of the above brigands were taken to Grevenó.

Another brigand, Manéka by name, was also captured at Anlona and conveyed to Janina.

It is to be hoped, however, that the troops will follow up their successes, and thus restore, if not completely, at least to a certain extent, that security which this most afflicted district so very sorely stands in need of.

I am also informed by good authority that the Inspector of Tribunals at Janina has been instructed by the Porte to telegraph to Constantinople the perpetration of every fresh act of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 27.

E *Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.*—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Athens, April* 12, 1882.

M. TRICOUPI spoke to me again this morning with regard to the present condition of Thessaly, which he said was in a far better state than existed at the time it was under the dominion of the Sultan, in spite of the unfavourable accounts that had been given of it principally from Turkish sources. He admitted, however, that there was still very much to be done, and he declared his Government would not relax their efforts in placing the province in such a condition as would not only satisfy the requirements of the Mussulman population residing there, but also raise the condition of the country as regarded order and good government to that enjoyed in other parts of the Kingdom of Greece.

It was to be regretted, he said, that the gendarmes in Thessaly, to whom for many months the Executive Administration of the province had more or less been given up, had proved in many instances most inefficient, but steps had already been taken to discharge a considerable number of the men belonging to that branch of the service who were notoriously unfitted to occupy the posts confided to them. He would shortly present a Bill to the Chamber to increase the pay of the gendarmes from 30 to 50 drachmas a month, and he trusted by such a measure to be able to enlist the services of a far better class of men.

He had also prepared two Bills to be submitted to the Chamber by the provisions of which he believed the material condition of the Mussulmans in Thessaly would be improved. He did not share, he said, the opinion of those persons who represented the Mussulmans as quitting Thessaly in large numbers; on the contrary, the official Reports he received on the subject were in direct contradiction of such a state of affairs. He was sorry to say, however, that he had reason to fear some of the Consular Agents appointed by Turkey at such places as Pharsala and Larissa were not acting quite properly, and that they were endeavouring to persuade Mussulmans, for objects he could not define, to leave the country.

M. Tricoupi stated that he intended to propose to the Chamber that the Mussulmans residing in the newly acquired provinces should be exempted from the military conscription for a period extending over five or six years; should any of them, however, desire to volunteer their services, he would propose that they should be allowed to do so, and

that they should enter into the gendarmerie and be permitted to wear the fez, which he said would be looked upon as a great privilege.

He was anxious, too, to meet the wishes of the Mussulman population which he had heard expressed as regarded the attendance of Mussulman women in the Courts of Law, in order to give evidence, and which was very distasteful to them.

He would propose that the testimony of the Mussulman women, when required, should be privately taken by the Mufti, or head priest, of the locality where the women might be residing, and be produced in Court in the form of an affidavit, thus sparing them the necessity of personally appearing in a Christian Court of Law.

M. Tricoupi concluded his remarks by saying that no pains would be spared to conciliate the new subjects lately acquired by Greece, and that he trusted ere long by means of judicious legislation, and by the employment of efficient administrative measures, to see a great amelioration effected in the present condition of Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 28.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

E
(No. 62. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, April 12, 1882.*

IN course of conversation with M. Tricoupi to-day I inquired of him if any foundation existed for a report that had reached me respecting the formation of certain Greek "Patriotic Committees" in different parts of the kingdom with a view to encouraging a movement in Epirus in favour of the annexation of that province to Greece.

Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu will have placed your Lordship in possession of certain intelligence on this subject in his despatch addressed to your Lordship on the 5th instant, and a copy of which he has forwarded to me.

M. Tricoupi said he would speak very frankly and openly to me, and began by denying the truth of any such Committees being organized. He said that the formation of any such Committees would be strongly discouraged by the Greek Government, as they "would do more harm than good." It was not the policy of his Government, he said, either to encourage intrigues against, or to provoke discord with, Turkey. He had distinctly declared, on assuming office, his ardent desire to strengthen and still further augment the friendly relations at present existing between the Governments of Greece and of the Porte; and although he had not much reason to feel sanguine as to that desire being cordially reciprocated by the Porte, he nevertheless should not deviate from the policy he had traced for his Government, and which, in his opinion, was the only true one for his Government to pursue. He would not deny, however, that in the event of any fresh difficulties or disturbances arising in the East, it was to the Albanians that Greece should turn for friendship and alliance; and that it would be his endeavour to enlist by every legitimate means the friendly sentiments towards Greece of the inhabitants of that portion of the Turkish dominion. He believed that sooner or later Austria would creep down to Salonica. Greece was too weak a power, he said, to offer any resistance, but with Albania as a friend and ally, the position of his country would be materially improved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 184.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 16, 1882.*

THE insurrection in the Herzegovina, and the difficulties connected with its administration, are giving rise to speculations in the public press upon the necessity of the "occupation" being before long converted into an "incorporation."

That this transition would ultimately take place, few persons have ever doubted from the day of the signature of the Treaty of Berlin; but I have not at present any

grounds for believing the Imperial Government to be taking any steps for bringing it about.

The most striking evidence of the direction which public opinion is assuming upon the question is to be found in the speech in which the extraordinary session of the Austrian Delegation was opened yesterday by its President, Dr. Schmesling, a prominent member of the Parliamentary Opposition.

After a well-merited recognition of the conduct and gallantry of the Imperial troops, and especially of a Dalmatian regiment which had greatly distinguished itself, and had shown that no ties of blood chilled its ardour against the enemies of the country, Dr. Schmesling went on to express the hope that the Government would succeed in restoring quiet and order, and "prepare the way for the moment when, as can hardly be doubtful, that territory must be included within the bounds of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 17, 1882.*

THE article headed "Russian Spies," of which I inclose a translated extract, is taken from the "Wiener Extrablatt," a paper of no political importance, but of considerable circulation.

The statements contained in it are given with every appearance of confidence in their accuracy, and as the Government have been extremely severe in confiscating all newspapers which circulate false intelligence, the publication of this article is likely to attract a good deal of attention, which it will certainly deserve if the facts averred are true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Extract from the "Wiener Extrablatt."

(Translation.)

WE learn that the Vienna police have received a list of Russian Staff Captains who have been sent from St. Petersburgh to Austria in order to prosecute secret inquiries, prepare drawings of fortresses, and exert themselves in the interests of Panslavism. They are all highly educated staff officers, and are well acquainted with the languages commonly spoken in Austria.

The officers are D——n of the Engineers, W——y of the 12th Regiment of infantry, O——i of the 6th Grenadiers, R——w of the 3rd Regiment of infantry, Ch——w of the 4th Hussars, and W——w of the 4th Hussars.

When they have completed their mission in the different parts of Austria, they will proceed to other countries, and in particular to Montenegro, where they will recruit their health after their exertions.

It appears that a remarkable number of delicate Russians were staying at Cattaro even as early as last summer. They took sea-baths there, and made short excursions to Montenegro and Herzegovina to complete their cure. At the same time there appeared, in the neighbourhood of Neusatz, a number of professors and journalists who made speeches at small meetings with the object of stirring up the Slav national sentiment. Emissaries of the same kind were also noticed in Upper Hungary.

The Agents of the Russian Government have two places of rendezvous. Those destined for England, France, and Switzerland, who have also to watch the Nihilist emigrants from Russia, have a central office in the Rue Rosine, in Paris, whilst until lately the agitators travelling in Austria, South Hungary, the Balkan States, and Montenegro received their orders from the lodgings of a certain Herr Sch——ff, in the Buchfoldgasse in Vienna.

The lodgings of a journalist named Gopscries in the Breitengasse were lately searched, and his connection with Panslavist agitators was clearly established. General St——es, formerly in the Austrian service, and his son, who have long supported the

Pan-Servian idea, were also seriously compromised. Gopseries has now been some weeks in prison at Ragusa, awaiting trial by the Military Tribunal.

It is evident, from the above, how thoroughly the Russian agitation has been organized; and it is well provided with funds, for the Russian aristocracy subscribe freely to it.

A Russian emissary, who has lately returned from Sophia, reports a conversation with the Russian Consul-General Hitrovo, who expressed himself word for word as follows:—

"Russia's military organization is out of gear, and she is not in a position to hold her own with an opponent of her own calibre. She must, therefore, endeavour to raise complications for Austria, for she is at present unable forcibly to dispute with Austria the supremacy over the Slav nations. It would be a weakness for Russia to give up her ancient prerogatives, and the aim of Russian policy is to diminish Austrian influence. The spark of discontent must be lighted in Eastern Austria among the Walhachian and Roumanian populations, in the same way as the insurrection was started in the south.

"The Moscow Panslavist Committees will take care that the insurrection in Dalmatia and the Herzegovina shall not subside; and the long line of the Montenegrin frontier renders a new outbreak possible as soon as reinforcements have been received."

The facts contained in this Report, which are certainly calculated to attract general attention, show sufficiently what we have to expect from the friendship of Russia.

No. 31.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord,

Vienna, April 20, 1882.

AT a sitting of the Committee of the Hungarian Delegation, held on the 18th instant, Count Kálnoky made a statement in reply to several questions that had been addressed to him in connection with the vote for 23,000,000 florins.

The Minister began by saying that both Servia and Montenegro had continued to act with perfect loyalty towards Austria, although the latter country especially had had particular difficulties to contend with in guarding the frontier. He then alluded to the question of English and Russian agitation, and mentioned the arrest of an Englishman who was accused of having had intercourse with the insurgents. The examination of the case, he added, was not yet completed. There was no proof of any agitation on the part of Russia or any other country; in fact, the relations of Austria with all other Powers continued to be most satisfactory.

With reference to the future position of the occupied provinces in regard to Austria, Count Kálnoky declared that the views of the Government were the same as at the time of the occupation; nothing had occurred to change them, and the object of the Government was to draw closer the ties which joined the provinces to Austria-Hungary.

At a sitting of the Austrian Delegation, held the same day, the Minister of War, after tracing the course of the insurrection, stated how completely successful the military operations had been, as was seen by the result, the occupied provinces being at the present moment, so to speak, completely cleared of insurgents. Count Bylandt went on to say that there was every hope that there would now be nothing to interfere with the recruiting being carried out, not only in Bosnia, but also in the separate districts of the Herzegovina. It would be proceeded with in May, and it was not till after it was completed that it would be possible to reduce the number of troops in the provinces.

Measures would also be undertaken for the prevention of future insurrectionary outbreaks, means of communication would be improved, and forts would be built; but the estimates for these purposes were reckoned for the whole year, and would entail no further vote.

At a Committee meeting of the Hungarian Delegation, held on the 19th, a motion was made and carried for reducing the vote required in the Government proposal by 2,000,000 florins.

The plenary meetings of both Delegations will be held within the next few days to take into consideration the Report of the Committee on the Government proposal, and the extraordinary session of the Delegations will then be closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 32.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, April 19, 1882.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 24 of the 14th instant, inclosing copy of a telegram from the Representatives of the Mussulman land-owners at Nisch, Lescovatz, and Procoplie, and instructing me to report what steps the Servian Government is taking to carry out its promise to compensate the Mussulman proprietors in accordance with the awards of the Agrarian Commissioners, I have the honour to state that, in the early part of the year, the Government had under its consideration a scheme with that object, which scheme was to have been submitted to the Skuptchina for its approval, as indeed appears from the Prince's speech on opening that Assembly last January.

The sudden prorogation of the Skuptchina in the midst of its labours prevented the Government from then carrying out its intention, but it has been by no means abandoned, and there is no reason to think that it will not be carried out as soon as that body shall reassemble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 33.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord,

Salonica, April 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of your Lordship, the following extract from a letter which I have recently received from my correspondent at Monastir, relative to the situation of affairs in the Sandjak of Debra:—

"The present state of Debra is quiet, but the Debriots are not satisfied with Dervish Pasha's system of reform. In the presence of a certain number of battalions they keep quiet. One thing which Dervish Pasha has really succeeded in moderating to a certain degree is the 'Can Davassi' (blood feuds); they are shooting one another less than before."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 34.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord,

Vienna, April 26, 1882.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL JONES in his despatch of the 30th ultimo, inclosed in the Earl of Dufferin's despatch No. 257, states that a certain Kermalia, accused of brigandage, affirmed himself to have been lately let out of prison by the authorities of Samakow for the purpose of exciting an insurrection in Macedonia, and also that armed bands were said to be frequently passing from Bulgaria towards the Macedonian frontier.

The Austro-Hungarian Government are aware that individuals, but not bands, have been passing the frontier with supposed insurrectionary designs, for some unascertained destination, which was at first asserted to be the Herzegovina, where, however, they do not appear to have arrived.

Count Kalnoky has thought throughout, that it was more probable that they would remain in Macedonia with a view to take part in any movement which might occur there.

He absolves the Bulgarian Government from all complicity in these designs, and says that, as far as he is aware, the attitude, both of the Bulgarian and East Roumelian Government, has been perfectly correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 202.) *Vienna, April 27, 1882.*

My Lord,

ACCOUNTS continue to be received of engagements between the Imperial troops and small bands of insurgents in the Herzegovina, who are invariably routed with more or less heavy loss to themselves, and with very little on the side of the troops.

The whole of the Crivosje appears now to be in the occupation of the Imperial forces, but the insurgents who have been driven into Montenegro reappear at different points and attack any small detached parties of the military, always leaving some dead behind them, and their total number of combatants is so small that the loss of every man must be felt.

The total population of the district is said not to exceed 3,000, including women and children, but hitherto the very large force which the nature of the country rendered it necessary to employ against them can only be said to have conquered the Crivoscie, but not the Crivosciens.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 204.) *Vienna, April 28, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a Proclamation issued on the 22nd instant by General Dahlen, the Commander-in-chief in the Herzegovine, offering an amnesty to those who, having taken part in the insurrection without being guilty of any ordinary crimes, shall return to their homes by the 20th May.

The General represents the insurrection as being at an end, and says that the Government had been moved to this act of clemency by the knowledge that the greater number of those who had taken part in it had either been misled or forced by threats into joining the movement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Proclamation of Baron Dahlen to the Inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovine.

THE insurrectionary movement which has lately disturbed public security and order in a portion of the land, has now been completely subdued by the Imperial and Royal troops. The insurrectionary bands that have appeared in certain districts have now been dispersed, and their reorganization, for the future, prevented by the military occupation of certain important positions.

The moment, consequently, has now come in which the inhabitants of these districts can safely return to their former peaceful occupations, and in this they will be both strongly supported and assisted by the Government.

In order, however, that all business may again be resumed, it is necessary that all those inhabitants who left their homes on account of the insurrection should now return. The Government are aware that the greater number of those who left did so, not of their own free will, but rather through the guidance and influence of others, and in some cases through intimidation and compulsion. With regard to these, the Government of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty is determined to act with all indulgence.

All those who, of their own accord, return before the 20th May of this year and report themselves to the authorities, will, in so far as they have not been guilty of any ordinary crime, be allowed to go free and unpunished from any other consequences of their actions. But against the others, viz., all those who do not return within the given period, as well as against those who have been guilty of crimes punishable under ordinary circumstances, and especially against those who have been the promoters and leaders of

the insurrectionary movement, proceedings will be taken in accordance with the full severity of the law.

(Signed) DAHLEN,
m.p. Feldzeugmeister.

Serajevo, April 22, 1882.

No. 37.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

No. 143.)

My Lord, *Berlin, April 27, 1882.*

SOME of the Berlin newspapers have recently announced that certain German officers have received permission to enter the Turkish army as Military Instructors, and, in spite of the contradiction of this report by the semi-official "Nord-Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung," the "Kreuz Zeitung" confirms the information.

According to this journal it would appear that Colonel Kähler, Commander of the 2nd Silesian Hussar Regiment, and one officer of each infantry, cavalry, and artillery, have been granted leave of absence for several years to proceed to Turkey for the reorganization of the army, and that their re-entry into the Prussian army has been assured to them.

The article adds, further, that the pecuniary question, so often a matter of uncertainty in Turkey, has been arranged in a satisfactory manner, as the Turkish Embassy at this Court has lodged a considerable sum at the Imperial Bank for payment of the salaries of these officers, who intend to leave for Constantinople on the 1st May.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 38.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Berlin, April 29, 1882.*

WITH reference to my No. 143 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatch which I have received from Colonel the Honourable G. Villiers, Her Majesty's Military Attaché at this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Colonel Villiers to Lord Ampthill.

My Lord, *Berlin, April 29, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that several newspapers in this country have announced the approaching departure of German officers for Turkey. These announcements have been semi-officially denied, and the authorities at the War Ministry, while contradicting the general statement, hardly conceal that there are some grounds for the rumours.

As a matter of fact, I am informed, on good authority, that the following officers have been granted temporary leave of absence from their regiments, with the understanding that they proceed to Turkey:—

Colonel Kühler, Commandant of the Silesian Hussars. This officer is best known for his work upon "The Use of Light Cavalry in the 1870-71 Campaign."

Captain Rustow, 2nd Pomeranian Artillery.

Captain von Hohe, 2nd Baden Dragoons.

Captain Kamphövener, 2nd Hanoverian Infantry Regiment.

My French collegue informed me yesterday that a German officer has recently been selected to proceed to Morocco to organize the troops in that country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE VILLIERS,
Military Attaché.

No. 39.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord,

Scutari, April 25, 1882.

AS I observe from a newspaper report of the proceedings in the Committee of the Hungarian Delegates of the 18th instant that the War Minister, M. Szlavy, stated that the emigration of the Bosnian Mohammedans had almost entirely ceased, although after the publication of the recruiting law there was a wide-spread inclination to leave the country, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, as far as can be judged from what may be noticed in Montenegro and here, M. Szlavy's statement is somewhat premature.

In fact, Bosniac and Herzegovinian Mussulman families are daily arriving in Scutari viâ Montenegro, not as refugees, but as immigrants, with their papers permitting their departure from the occupied provinces properly signed by the Austrian authorities.

I am informed that many of these immigrants have already sold their lands, and that they belong principally to the poorer classes of peasant proprietors, the more wealthy of their countrymen preferring to seek fresh homes in the vicinity of Constantinople or Asia Minor, and that they are therefore emigrating either by sea or through the Sandjak of Novi Bazar and Salonica.

The immigrants arriving here state that it is not only the military law which has driven them from their homes, but also the endless vexatious regulations and petty taxes which, they assert, the Austrian officials enforce with the greatest severity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 40.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord,

Serajevo, April 28, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 8th instant, inclosing copy of a notice published here, enjoining all peasants to return to their farms before the 31st May, under penalty of forfeiting their rights thereto, I have now the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, translation of a further Proclamation on the subject, dated the 22nd instant, but issued on the 20th.

According to the terms of this Proclamation, all persons who have taken part in the insurrection, with the exception of the leaders and instigators of the movement, and those who may have been guilty of some ordinary crime involving punishment under any circumstances, will be amnestied if they return to their homes by the 20th May.

It is evident that the authorities consider the insurrection to be at an end, and that no further danger is to be apprehended of any further rising. Small insurgent bands, however, will undoubtedly hold on, and brigandage will exist throughout the summer. The threat of severe punishment contained in the last paragraph of the Proclamation will deter many from returning who have, perhaps, nothing to fear, while those to whom the amnesty does not extend will certainly endeavour to prevent the submission of their followers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

THE insurrectionary movement which lately disturbed public security and order in parts of the country has been put down by the Imperial and Royal troops.

The insurgent bands which made their appearance in certain districts are broken up, and their reassembling is prevented by the military occupation of various advantageous positions.

The time has therefore come when the people can everywhere return without hindrance to quiet and peaceful work, in which they will receive the fullest protection and aid from the Government.

In order, however, that earnest and useful work may everywhere be possible, it is necessary that all those persons who have left their homes in those localities where there has been a rising should return.

The Government is aware that the greater part of the absentees did not, of their own inclination, forget and neglect their duties, but were in part deceived and misled, and in part influenced by fear and compulsion.

Towards these the Government of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty will now show clemency.

All those who shall, by the 20th day of the month of May of the present year, voluntarily return to their homes, and report themselves to the authorities, will, provided they are not convicted of any common crime, be freed from all other consequences of their actions, and go unpunished.

But against the rest, that is, against all those who have not returned by the day stated, against those who may be proved guilty of some precise crime, for which, under ordinary circumstances, they would be liable to punishment; and, lastly, against those in particular who have been the instigators and leaders of the insurrection, the law will be put in force in all its rigour.

The General in Command, and Chief of the Local Government
for Bosnia and the Herzegovina,
(Signed) DAHLEN, *F.M.L.*

Serajevo, April 22, 1882.

No. 41.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 221.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1882.

I HAVE received a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy,* from the relatives of the merchants of Janina imprisoned at Constantinople, imploring Her Majesty's Government to endeavour to obtain their liberation, and I have to request your Excellency to continue to use your good offices at the Porte on behalf of these unfortunate people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 42.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord,

Salonica, April 22, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of Mr. Interpreter Bizzo's letter of this date respecting the promise of a free pardon given by the Commandant of Catterina to the brigand Chief, Niko; and reporting the successful pursuit, by the Turkish military in that district, of Captain Mécha's band of nineteen brigands, who crossed over from Thessaly on the 14th instant.

I also inclose a translated extract of a paragraph taken from the Cossova "Gazette" relative to the pursuit of a band of twenty brigands who recently came over the Bulgarian frontier into the district of Kotchana, in the Vilayet of Cossova.

The appointment of General Grivas as Commander-in-chief in Thessaly has produced here a very good impression, and is generally considered as a proof of the determination of the Greek Government to maintain order and tranquillity on the frontier.

I hear that already several brigands who had been lurking in the vicinity of the border have made their submission to General Grivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* April 14, 1882.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Mr. Bizzo to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, April 22, 1882.

Sir,

IN accordance with your instructions, I beg to communicate to you the following information, which I have obtained from a sure source.

On the 12th instant Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief at Catterina, sent a certain individual, Ilmaz Ghega by name, to have an interview with the brigand Chief, Niko, and to propose to him that he should surrender on promise of free pardon.

Niko replied: "I put no faith in you, because many of those who have given themselves up under similar conditions are now in prison. But if I get a document signed by the English Consul-General at Salonica, in which I am assured that I have nothing to fear from his interference or from that of his Government, and also from the Vali giving the same promise, I am willing in that case to surrender. Otherwise, I will await my fate on the mountain side, or in the plain, and live and die a brigand, rifle in hand."

According to Ilmaz Ghega's statement, it would appear that Niko's and Catzaro's combined bands amount to twenty-five persons.

On the 14th instant, "Captain" Mécha, with a band of nineteen brigands, came over the frontier from Larissa into the district of Catterina. The troops ascertaining their whereabouts surrounded them, and, after a sharp conflict, succeeded in killing six of the band, including the Chief, whose heads they cut off and brought into Catterina, the rest of the band having effected their escape. On the side of the troops, a Captain was killed, and his corpse brought into the town for interment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JEAN BIZZO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of April 19, 1882.

(Translation.)

WE are given to understand that a telegram has been received by his Excellency the Governor-General from the Mutessarif of Useup, reporting that a band of brigands, composed of twenty individuals, recently crossed the Bulgarian frontier, and falling in with a detachment of mounted police in the vicinity of the village of Deranjé, in the nahié of Piyanjé, in the caza of Cotchana, a conflict ensued which resulted in the death of two of the brigands, without there being any casualty on our side.

Although, hitherto, at the approach of the summer season, it has been the custom for bands of brigands of this description to make their appearance from time to time, and as soon as there are too many of them to return to the localities from whence they came, yet, this year, thanks be to God, under the Imperial protection, we hope to enjoy the fruits of the effective measures taken by the Imperial Government to insure that security and tranquillity which is now becoming established in every part of our vilayet, so that we feel convinced that the villainous projects of these brigands will be frustrated, no chance being allowed them for putting them into execution, and that as soon as ever they make their appearance, at whatever point it may be, they will promptly be crushed and annihilated.

No. 43.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord,

Ragusa, April 29, 1882.

ON the 10th instant I reported that General Jovanovich's head-quarters would be broken up at once. Such was the general impression at the time; but his Excellency still remains, and there is every probability of his continuing to do so for some time longer. The reason assigned for his presence being still required in these parts is the continued disturbed state of Crivoscie, where, though the insurrection has been sufficiently suppressed to obviate the necessity of operations on a larger scale, acts of brigandage and attacks on the military are of daily occurrence, and whence every week a number of wounded are being dispatched to Trieste. An engagement took place some ten days ago, in which, according to a statement made to me by a staff officer, twenty-two Crivosciens fell, the wounded having been carried off by their own people. This is the largest number of dead picked up at the same time since the beginning of the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 44.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 314.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, May 2, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Sultan has issued an Iradé ordering the contracts of the British gendarmerie officers, which expired on the 1st inst. ultimo, to be renewed for another six months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 45.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 207.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 3, 1882.

THE Turkish Ambassador yesterday communicated to Count Kálnoky a despatch from his Government respecting the dedicated church property in Roumania.

In speaking to me on the subject afterwards, the Count observed that the question was an embarrassing one, but that it was difficult not to admit the Porte to be justified in urging its reference to an arbitration, according to the mode of proceeding originally decided upon.

The excuses put forward by the Roumanian Government for the course they had followed were, in his Excellency's opinion, of the most frivolous and unsatisfactory character, as he had already told the Roumanian Minister, to whom he proposed further to say that, by persisting in the sales now protested against by the Patriarchs, they would be acting in a manner which the Governments the most friendly to them would have the right to object to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 46.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord,

Berlin, May 6, 1882.

IN my despatch No. 143 of the 27th ultimo, I drew your Lordship's attention to a report that certain German officers were about to leave Berlin for Constantinople for the purpose of organizing the Turkish army.

This rumour has now received confirmation, and the semi-official "Nord-deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of this morning states that the following officers will start for Turkey about the 15th instant:—

Colonel Kähler, Commander of the 2nd Silesian Regiment of Hussars, who will make the arrangements for the employment of the other officers, and for the future service of other Prussian officers under the Turkish Government; Captain Kamphövener, of the 79th Regiment of Infantry; Captain von Hohe, of the 4th Dragoons; and Captain Ristow, of the 17th Artillery Regiment.

The three latter will be employed as instructors in their several branches of the service, and will receive the rank of Colonel; whereas Colonel Kähler will be made a General.

All these officers have been granted a provisional leave of absence for three months, at the end of which time they will have to decide whether they wish to enter the Turkish service or not. Should they do so, their re-entry into the Prussian army within three years is assured to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 47.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9, 11·50 A.M.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1882, 10·45 A.M.*

SAID PASHA, ex-Governor-General of the Archipelago, replaces Assim Pasha as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 48.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 1, 1882.*

IN my despatch No. 44 of the 25th ultimo, I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship that a considerable immigration of Bosniak and Herzegovinian Mussulmans was taking place here.

I have now ascertained that not all of these people have left their countries with the permission of the Austrian authorities, and that a certain number of them belonged to insurgent bands which had been gradually forced by the Imperial and Royal troops to take refuge across the Montenegrin frontier.

These refugees, together with some of the men of the families which had emigrated with their papers in order, I am informed confidentially, are secretly working their way back, by circuitous routes, into the occupied provinces, and they have, probably, been enabled to obtain, here and in other Albanian border localities, all the arms and ammunition they required.

Although it thus appears that the revolted natives in the occupied provinces are bent on continuing their resistance, those who are now passing through Scutari admit that they are not in a position to do anything else but harass the Austrian troops by guerilla tactics, and that even this system of warfare must quickly be abandoned if the hope which has always been held out to them, that a powerful friend will openly espouse their cause towards the end of the present month, is not realized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 49.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April 27, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of Dervish Pasha's recommendation to the Porte to come to some arrangement with the Greek Government for the suppression of brigandage on the Turco-Greek frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, April 27, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Dervish Pasha informed me yesterday afternoon, during a visit he paid to Her Majesty's Consulate, that he has recently recommended the Porte to come to some arrangement with the Greek Government for the suppression of brigandage on the Turco-Greek boundary. I told Dervish Pasha that I had also reported to Her Majesty's Government upon the desirability of joint action against the evil (*vide* my despatch to Earl Granville of the 26th February, 1882); and in further conversation with his Excellency I hinted at the advantage which would attend a meeting between the Greek and Turkish

frontier authorities in order to confer and to concert as to the best measures to be adopted for the attainment of the important object he had in view.

His Excellency expressed his approval of my suggestion, and the opinion that its adoption would prove beneficial to the interests of both countries.

I shall forward a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 50.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May 1, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's steamer "Tehé," which arrived here from Volo on the 29th ultimo, had on board 575 Mahommedan refugees from Thessaly, all bound for Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 51.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, May 6, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin relative to the extirpation of brigandage and the application of martial law at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, May 6, 1882.*

I HAVE just this moment received a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis, acquainting me that the military authorities at Janina have exiled eleven Christian peasants, harbourers of brigands, to Asia Minor and Tripoli, which shows that the measures adopted by the authorities for the extirpation of brigandage have not slackened.

I have also the honour to acquaint your Excellency that martial law is again in force at Prevesa. I am at a loss, however, to discover the reason why this last step has been taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 52.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 13.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 20 Avril, 1882.*

J'AI reçu, en leur temps, les cinq dépêches que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date des 26 Novembre, 31 Décembre, 28 Janvier, et 14 Février, relativement à la situation des propriétaires Musulmans en Bulgarie et à l'attitude des autorités Princières à l'égard de la Sublime Porte.

Nous sommes reconnaissants au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté de la Reine des représentations qu'il a faites à ce sujet à Sophia. Je prie votre Excellence d'être l'interprète de nos sentiments auprès de Lord Granville.

En prenant connaissance des explications fournies par M. Vulcovitch, sa Seigneurie a pu se convaincre de la valeur absolument négative d'un système de défense basé sur des erreurs de fond et de forme. Je n'en ai pas moins cru devoir

faire préparer le Mémoire ci-inclus, contenant tous les éléments d'appréciation propres à réfuter les allégations du fonctionnaire Bulgare.

Votre Excellence voudra bien communiquer le contenu de ce Mémoire au Principal Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères, et lui en laisser copie. Nous ne doutons point que notre réfutation ne fasse ressortir aux yeux de sa Seigneurie la nécessité de nouvelles démarches tendant à amener la cessation de maux qui se révèlent dans toute leur intensité malgré tous les efforts qu'on déploie pour déguiser la vérité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Memorandum.

1.—*Brigandage.*

L'AFFIRMATION de M. Vulcovitch "que des bandes de brigands ne se sont jamais formées en Bulgarie depuis la constitution de la Principauté, et qu'aucune bande n'a été signalée au Gouvernement Princier comme ayant franchi la ligne de démarcation," est tout à fait contraire à la vérité, et démontre avec quelle insouciance, quel manque de déférence ce fonctionnaire répond aux représentations que les Consuls-Généraux se trouvent dans le cas d'adresser au Gouvernement Princier.

Les actes de brigandage commis par les bandes venant de la Bulgarie et signalés par les Gouverneurs-Généraux et les Commandants Militaires des provinces limitrophes ont fait justement depuis la constitution de la Principauté l'objet de communications réitérées de la part de la Sublime Porte, soit à l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople, soit directement au Gouvernement Princier par l'entremise de Nihad Pacha.

M. Zancof, pendant qu'il était aux Affaires, avait bien reconnu lui-même que les auteurs de ces actes étaient les émigrés Bulgares de la Macédoine agglomérés sur la ligne de démarcation, et avait promis de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour interner ces gens dans la Principauté. Cet aveu, joint au fait bien connu parmi tant d'autres, des soixante-dix à quatre-vingts brigands qui, débouchant de la Bulgarie, vinrent attaquer et dévaliser le 26 Juin, 1881, un convoi d'émigrés Musulmans campés tout près d'Eghri Palanka, dément formellement l'affirmation de M. Vulcovitch.

M. Vulcovitch affirme encore "que le Gouvernement Princier a proposé au Gouvernement Impérial une entente commune à intervenir sur les mesures à prendre pour la sécurité de la ligne de démarcation, et que la Sublime Porte s'y est refusée toujours." Mais c'est tout le contraire qui est arrivé. La correspondance qui a été échangée et les pourparlers qui ont eu lieu à ce sujet le prouvent jusqu'à l'évidence.

Au commencement de l'année 1880, le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Étrangères avait proposé à l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople l'adoption d'un des trois modes qu'il indiquait dans une lettre adressée le 20 Mai à Nihad Pacha. Depuis et durant deux ans, tous les efforts du Gouvernement Impérial tendant à amener une entente sont demeurés sans résultat. Devant des faits indéniables, quelle valeur peut avoir l'assertion de M. Vulcovitch? Les Consuls-Généraux des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Sophia, ordinairement si indulgents pour les hommes et les choses de la Principauté, ont sévèrement jugé dans leurs rapports le fonctionnaire qui, par des affirmations si inexactes, compromet la dignité de l'Administration Bulgare.

Le refus persistant de cette Administration de se prêter à une action commune est d'autant plus regrettable qu'il a eu pour effet de rendre les efforts isolés du Gouvernement Impérial stériles: les brigands, pourchassés par les troupes Ottomanes, trouvent au delà de la ligne de démarcation asile et impunité. Au moment où la Sublime Porte, placée ainsi dans l'alternative douloureuse de forfaire à l'obligation de défendre ses populations des provinces limitrophes contre les exactions des brigands ou de poursuivre les malfaiteurs au delà de la ligne de démarcation, a tout fait pour éviter les mesures extrêmes, M. Vulcovitch, méconnaissant la dignité de cette attitude, s'est laissé entraîner à des manifestations d'ardeurs guerrières pour le moins déplacées.

2.—*Caisses des Orphelins.*

Dans la question de la consignation au Cheikh-ul-Islam Capoussi des quotes-parts dues par les Caisses des Orphelins aux Musulmans émigrés, il s'agit moins de

leurs réclamations en elles-mêmes, qui ne sont guères contestées par le Gouvernement Princier, que du retard injustifiable apporté par les autorités Bulgares à régler ces mêmes réclamations, reconnues justes, et consistant simplement en la restitution des fonds qui, déposés aux Caisses des Orphelins d'après les dispositions de la loi Ottomane en vigueur à cette époque, doivent faire retour aujourd'hui au Cheikh-ul-Islamat.

Pour justifier ce retard si préjudiciable aux orphelins des Musulmans émigrés qui depuis quatre ans ne peuvent recouvrer ni le capital déposé, ni les intérêts qui forment leur unique moyen de subsistance, M. Vulcovitch cherche à faire croire (1) que le Gouvernement Impérial n'avait pas encore fait la remise des Caisses des Orphelins de la Province du Danube qui, à la suite de la guerre, auraient été transportées à Constantinople, et dont il énumère bon nombre à tout hasard; (2) qu'il a fallu édicter au préalable une nouvelle loi sur la tutelle, ainsi que le règlement sur le fonctionnement des Caisses, afin de pouvoir régulariser la liquidation des Caisses des Orphelins administrées sous l'autorité Ottomane; (3) qu'enfin, si la question n'est pas résolue, il faudrait en rechercher la cause dans l'état de désordre et d'irrégularité des Caisses, aussi bien que dans la multiplicité des réclamations de quotes-parts à examiner.

Il n'y avait à Constantinople que quatre Caisses des Orphelins: celles de Sophia, de Tirnovo, de Sistow, et de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. La Commission Impériale en Bulgarie, chargée de leur remise au Gouvernement Princier, s'est empressée, dès son arrivée à Sophia, d'examiner avec le concours des employés Bulgares, la Caisse de Sophia, d'en confectionner les registres et de la consigner aux employés Bulgares contre un reçu régulier portant la date du 26 Juin, 1880. Les Caisses de Tirnovo et de Sistow ont été aussi examinées et les registres en ont été confectionnés; mais, comme jusqu'à la date du 15 Mars, 1882, c'est-à-dire dans l'espace de deux années, les récépissés requis n'ont pas été délivrés à la Commission Impériale, elle n'a pas consigné la dernière Caisse de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik, qui se trouve encore en sa possession. En dehors de ces quatre Caisses, il n'en existe aucune à Constantinople. M. Vulcovitch en énumère bien un bon nombre encore, mais à tout hasard, car celles de Nicopolis et de Plevna, qu'il cite, devaient nécessairement tomber entre les mains des Russes et des Bulgares après la prise de ces places. Celles de Rasgrad, d'Eski-Djouma, d'Osman-Bazar, transportées à la station de Rasgrad, ont été saisies par les Russes lors de la retraite des troupes Ottomanes et doivent se trouver entre les mains des Bulgares. Quant à la Caisse de Roustchouk, M. Vulcovitch prétend que Nihad Pasha lui aurait écrit le $\frac{7}{19}$ Juin, 1881, qu'il était prêt à la consigner avec celle de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. Mais, dans sa lettre, Nihad Pasha ne parle que des tapous ("titres de propriétés") de Roustchouk et de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. Il n'a pas annoncé ni ne pouvait annoncer la consignation prochaine de la Caisse de Roustchouk, car elle se trouve entre les mains des autorités Bulgares, qui, d'après M. Vulcovitch, y ont même constaté un déficit de 70,000 piastres.

Non content de ces inexactitudes volontaires, M. Vulcovitch affirme que la Caisse de Sophia aurait été emportée par le Mouhassebédji qui l'aurait ouverte à Doubnitza pour disposer à sa convenance des sommes y contenues. Cette assertion n'est rien moins que vraie. Lors de la consignation aux employés Bulgares de la dite Caisse, le Directeur d'icelle qui assistait à cette opération a déclaré que le cachet qu'il y avait apposé était intact. C'est alors seulement qu'on a procédé à l'ouverture de la Caisse.

Nihad Pacha a fait observer dans ses différentes lettres que ni la loi projetée sur la tutelle, ni les règlements relatifs au fonctionnement de la Caisse, ne pouvaient ni ne devaient être considérés comme impliquant la justification des atermoiements que subissaient les demandes des émigrés Musulmans en restitution de fonds déposés dans les Caisses des Orphelins d'après les dispositions des lois antérieurement en vigueur. En effet, la loi à édicter ou édictée ne peut être applicable qu'à la gestion future des fonds des orphelins Bulgares. De plus, de même que le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas attendu la promulgation de cette loi pour faire rentrer les sommes dues par les particuliers aux Caisses des Orphelins, de même il aurait pu payer les sommes dues par les Caisses aux particuliers.

Pour démontrer les désordres et l'irrégularité qui auraient marqué la gestion des Caisses, M. Vulcovitch cite dans celle de Roustchouk, d'une part, le déficit de 70,000 piastres et, de l'autre, un effectif de 20,000 piastres. Cette objection n'est rien moins qu'admissible. Dans la manipulation de la Caisse, le montant d'avoir et de devoir peut être porté ensemble; mais les registres indiquent spécialement et les sommes déposées pour le compte des mineurs et les sommes employées en prêt, ainsi que cela était constaté dans le dépouillement des Caisses consignées à Sophia aux autorités Bulgares.

Nihad Pacha a préparé la liste des émigrés réclamant leurs quotes-parts. En parlant de cette liste, M. Vulcovitch fait remarquer que dans quelques cas les sommes ne sont pas indiquées. Mais il s'agissait là d'une simple demande ayant pour objet de constater dans les registres des Caisses ne figurait pas un dépôt du pétitionnaire. [*sic*] D'ailleurs, en admettant même l'existence d'irrégularités dans la gestion des Caisses, n'y avait-il pas là un motif de plus pour ne pas retarder si longtemps la liquidation? On aurait pu rechercher à temps et rendre effective la responsabilité des Directeurs des Caisses ou de leurs gérants, conformément à la loi Ottomane régissant la matière. En écartant cette possibilité, l'Administration Bulgare n'a-t-elle pas assumé la responsabilité de ceux qui ne seraient plus en état de répondre?

3.—*Passeports et Permis de Route.*

Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a fait qu'user de son droit en engageant la Bulgarie à prévenir ses populations d'avoir à se conformer aux lois et règlements Ottomans concernant les passeports sous peine d'encourir les sévérités légales que comporte le cas. La Sublime Porte croit également être dans son droit en avisant le Gouvernement Princier que les passeports Bulgares ne pouvaient être admis comme valables s'il ne portaient pas un signe quelconque indiquant la position de la Bulgarie vis-à-vis de l'Empire dont elle fait partie intégrante. L'histoire enseigne que des pays se trouvant dans une position analogue et jouissant de droits plus importants que celui de la délivrance de passeports, étaient obligés de reconnaître leur vassalité en plaçant sur les revers des monnaies l'effigie du Suzerain.

4.—*Démolition des Propriétes de l'État.*

Le Gouvernement Impérial peut se contenter de la réponse du Gouvernement Princier en tant qu'il s'agit des propriétés de l'État en ruine (ce qui doit être dûment constaté par le concours de la Commission Turco-Bulgare), sous la réserve de tous les droits stipulés à ce sujet en faveur de la Sublime Porte par l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, et à condition que les autorités Princières se chargent de ne pas les laisser tomber en ruines jusqu'à ce que la question des propriétés de l'État soit vidée.

No. 53.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 13.)

Sublime Porte, le 24 Avril, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie d'un nouvel acte par lequel les Patriarches Grecs de Constantinople, d'Alexandrie, d'Antioche, de Jérusalem et l'Archevêque de Sinaï protestent contre la vente projetée des trois propriétés de Baïtzéni, de Rousséni, et de Boutzumu appartenant, les deux premières aux Patriarcats d'Alexandrie et de Jérusalem, et, la dernière, à la communauté du Mont Athos.

Je prie votre Excellence de communiquer cette protestation au Gouvernement près duquel elle est accréditée, et de l'amener à faire parvenir au Gouvernement Roumain les représentations nécessaires pour l'ajournement de la vente dont il s'agit jusqu'à la solution de la question des couvents dédiés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 53.

The Greek Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem, and the Archbishop of Sinaï, to Assim Pasha.

Constantinople, le $\frac{10}{22}$ *Mars*, 1882.

Excellence,

PAR leur note en date du $\frac{15}{27}$ Février dernier, les Soussignés ont eu l'honneur de présenter à votre Excellence une protestation contre la vente, opérée par le Gouvernement Roumain du Han Serban Voda, propriété appartenant à la catégorie des biens

dédiés. En cette occasion, ils ont exprimé la douloureuse impression que leur causait l'attitude du Gouvernement Roumain, attitude qui est loin de répondre à l'initiative que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu prendre pour le réglement de la question des couvents dédiés; en même temps ils se sont permis d'émettre l'espoir que le Gouvernement Impérial jugerait qu'il était nécessaire de hâter l'action commune des Grandes Puissances qu'il a invoquée pour la solution définitive de ce conflit.

Le "Moniteur Officiel" du Bucharest nous apprend que des nouvelles ventes d'immeubles de la même catégorie ont été votées par les Corps Législatifs de Roumanie, et que le 29 Janvier et le 16 Février, année courante, le Gouvernement Roumain a été autorisé par les Chambres de vendre à la commune de la ville de Jassi au prix de 339,487 fr. les propriétés territoriales Baïtzéni, Roussèni, et Boutzumu, dont les deux premières appartiennent aux Patriarcats d'Alexandrie et de Jérusalem et la dernière à la communauté du Mont Athos.

À en juger par ces aliénations successives d'immeubles appartenant aux Saints-Lieux, par cette persistance de l'Administration Roumaine dans une conduite si peu conforme à l'esprit et à la lettre des actes internationaux au sujet de cette question, il semblerait qu'en faisant disparaître peu à peu par des aliénations territoriales l'objet du litige, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi Charles I croit qu'il pourrait se soustraire aux engagements que lui imposent les décisions Européennes.

Par conséquent, les Soussignés viennent protester de nouveau auprès de votre Excellence, et par son intermédiaire auprès des Grandes Puissances, contre ces récentes aliénations de leurs immeubles opérées par le Gouvernement Roumain, et maintenir toutes les réserves légales formulées dans les protestations qu'ils ont adressées à des circonstances analogues le 25 Septembre, 1868, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril, 1871, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Novembre, 1877, et dernièrement encore, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Février, 1882.

Après avoir accompli ce devoir que leur impose la réserve des droits des communautés directement intéressées dans la question des couvents dédiés, les Soussignés croient que la poursuite des négociations entamées déjà par la Sublime Porte avec les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris et du Traité de Berlin, dans le but de hâter la nomination de l'arbitrage prescrit pour la solution de la question, serait le seul moyen de mettre fin au déni de justice absolu opposé par le Gouvernement Roumain et arrêter la continuation de ces aliénations, qui recèlent dans l'avenir de nouvelles complications de ce conflit, déjà entouré de tant de difficultés.

Aussi, forts de leurs droits, confiant surtout dans la sollicitude de la Sublime Porte qui, dans sa haute justice, ne saurait rester indifférente aux réclamations des Saints-Lieux, les Soussignés prient instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en sérieuse considération la situation que l'attitude du Gouvernement Roumain continue de créer à la question des couvents dédiés, et agir de la manière qu'elle jugerait le plus à propos pour la mise à exécution des décisions concernant l'institution de l'arbitrage.

Agréez, &c.
Le Patriarche de Constantinople,
(Signé) JOACHIM.
L'Évêque de Scythopolis,
GÉRASIME, *Représentant des Patriarches d'Alexandrie, d'Antioche, et de Jérusalem.*
Le Représentant du Mont Sinaï,
Archimandrite PARTHYRIUS.

No. 54.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 329.)

Constantinople, May 5, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, giving the causes and motives of the continued Turkish emigration from that province.

The despatch also contains a précis of a petition addressed to the chief Consulates at Philippopoli by the Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik, stating their grievances, and giving a description of the tyranny and injustice from which they suffer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 24, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following observations on the continued emigration of Mussulman inhabitants from this province. It cannot be other than forcible reasons which induce or oblige these people to abandon to others the homes with which they have been associated for so many generations; and I have not failed to call the Governor-General's attention to the serious loss the province must sustain in being deprived of so many hard-working, peaceable citizens, as, although the greater number of the emigrants are mere coffee-house frequenters—useless and mischievous here and elsewhere—a large proportion are also industrious workmen, whose loss the province can ill afford at the present time. I have impressed on him the necessity of ascertaining the nature of their grievances, and at once redressing them.

I believe he endeavours to do so to the best of his ability, but finds the following difficulties almost insurmountable: the impossibility of getting trustworty agents, whether Christian or Mussulman, to employ for this purpose; the want of special funds to cover the necessary charges, as the Permanent Committee, with whom it rests to grant these, views the object with little favour; and especially the difficulty of persuading the complainants themselves to advance specific charges, substantiated by dates, and the names of persons and places.

A Commission of Inquiry, composed of a Mussulman and two Christians, recently sent, for the above purpose, into one of the affected districts, reports that the chief grievances complained of are that Christian residents intrude into villages hitherto exclusively Mussulman, and that they bring with them their troops of swine, to the great scandal of the Mahommedans and pollution of their mosques and cemeteries.

I inclose herewith the précis of a petition addressed to the chief Consulates here by certain Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik, which states more definitely their grievances, and describes the wrongs from which they suffer, and the state to which they are reduced by local tyranny. But, even in this instance, the remissness and apathy of the petitioners themselves prevented us inquiring fully into the matter, as, having presented their statement, they at once returned to their homes, without affording us an opportunity of examining them on the question of their complaints. The Notables of the Turkish community aid us in no way to learn the truth, indifferent, as they ever are, to the miseries of others, as long as they are themselves spared all suffering; and, indeed, it would seem that three years' loss of power has sufficed to reduce them—formerly such arrogant masters—to the abject state of their *ci-devant* rayahs. A few days since a deputation from a Mussulman district, where they number eighty families to sixty Christian, represented to the Chief of the Gendarmerie here that they would find themselves forced to emigrate if the detachment of six gendarmes were withdrawn from their village. Apparently they are too terrified to defend themselves, or even to come forward and denounce to the authorities those who maltreat them, and this reticence, whether due to fear or stupidity, renders it especially difficult to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. They trust as little in their own people as in the Bulgarian officials, and, doubtless, with good reason.

Most of the Bulgarian officials are hopelessly corrupt and incapable, ignorant of the very meanings of justice and tolerance, and but too pleased to gratify at once their bigotry and rapacity by oppressing their Turkish neighbours, so as to force them to quit the soil and sell their property for a trifling sum. Unhappily, no one, as yet, has been punished condignly for such misconduct, the Tribunals readily extenuating offences committed on Turks by Bulgarians.

A more than usually atrocious crime, to which allusion is made in the accompanying Petition, was committed apparently with the above object on the 20th of last month at the village of Karipli, in the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, the perpetrators of which are as yet undiscovered. This village consists of about fifteen houses, or rather hovels, constructed of reeds and mud by the inhabitants, on their return thither after the late war. The neighbouring villages are inhabited by Christians.

About 10 P.M. on the date in question some armed men, estimated at about six, entered the village and tried to force their way into one of the houses, the owner of which, endeavouring to prevent their entrance, was shot dead through the door. A young woman, hearing the shots, rushed shrieking from a neighbouring hut, and was likewise shot dead. The invaders then began discharging their fire-arms in all directions, and after a short time left the place. The inhabitants, in terror, abandoned their village forthwith and sought refuge in Bazardjik, where they now remain. The local Bailli, with praiseworthy energy and expedition, made several arrests in the neighbouring villages, justified by very plausible, although circumstantial, evidence, but the Provincial Advocate-General, Prince Tour et Taxis, who was sent to investigate the case, appears to have allowed, somewhat readily, the plea of an *alibi* advanced by the suspects, and he suggests that the crime was committed by the villagers themselves through jealousy, a charge unsupported by any semblance of probability.

The villagers are unable to throw any light on the motives of the crime or its perpetrators, and this is taken as warranting suspicion against themselves. Judging from the circumstances, as I have learnt them from most trustworthy sources, there can be little doubt that the motive of this crime was to force these people, through fear, to quit their village and sell their land. The most natural place to seek the assassins would be among those who would benefit by this result—the neighbouring villagers; but Bulgarian delinquents, whose crime is the murder and spoliation of Turks, have learnt before now how little they need fear from justice administered at the hands of M. Tour et Taxis.

No official Returns having been supplied or called for on the subject of the Turkish emigration, it is difficult to estimate with any accuracy the number of Mussulmans who have again quitted this province after returning here at the end of the late war. The railway traffic managers estimate them at 3,000 or 4,000 individuals, of whom about a third may belong to the labouring classes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Substance of a Petition presented to the Consuls of the Great Powers at Philippopoli by certain Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik.

(Translation.)

PREAMBLE states that the Mussulman population of the Department of Bazardjik having emigrated during the war, half of them succumbed to the hardships they underwent. The rest returned when they imagined that security had been restored by the Berlin Treaty, guaranteed by the Powers. No sooner, however, had they entered the province, than they found themselves persecuted and oppressed by the Bulgarians. Trusting to the guarantees of Europe, they bore their sufferings in the hope of speedy improvement, until at length they can bear them no longer.

The Government of Eastern Roumelia being purely Bulgarian, the Mahommedan population not only derives no benefit from it, but is exposed to constant attacks upon individual life and honour.

If the inhabitants of villages will sell their lands for a fraction of their value—one year's rent—the Bulgarians become possessed of them; if not, sufficient is left them (the Turks) only to keep them from starvation; the rest is forcibly seized by Bulgarians, on the plea that it is public pasture-land.

We cannot cut firewood in the woods, nor even use our meadows or corn-fields, as the Bulgarians, instead of pasturing their cattle on the commons, drive them into our corn-fields. If we request them to desist, they answer us with blows and abuse, or threaten to set fire to our cabins. It is unsafe even to go into the woods, as they break our carts and tools, as they did to Hamza Oglou Mustafa, of Emirly, between two Bulgarian villages.

The gendarmes posted in some of the larger Bulgarian villages to maintain order are no protection, but rather a trouble, to the Mussulmans, whom they cheat and ill-use.

The Bulgarians subject the Mussulmans to violence and insult of every description. If they complain to the authorities, they are imprisoned. On the other hand, complaints on the part of the Bulgarians against Mussulmans meet with prompt attention.

We have remained, notwithstanding all Bulgarian efforts to drive us out, trusting that Europe would succeed in finding a remedy for our ills. But the Bulgarians are continually telling us, "Oh! you Turks will only remain here a few days, and then all your belongings will fall into our hands."

Armed Bulgarians in the neighbourhood of our villages keep us in constant terror. The 13th March, at about 4 o'clock (Turkish time), the village of Kara Yacoupti (Karipli) was attacked by Bulgarians from a neighbouring village, armed with Martinis. The casualties included both men and women. The survivors, in fear of their lives, abandoned their property and crops, and taking with them only their families, fled for refuge to our town, which they reached on foot in a most miserable state.

Other villagers, terrified by their example, are on the point of quitting their homes. Their Mukhtars and Elders are coming here (Tatar-Bazardjik), seeking refuge, and asking what is going to happen.

If we do not complain to the authorities, it is because these are Bulgarians, and we know from experience how they will act. Moreover, we are warned that our villages will be pillaged and burnt should we take any steps in this direction.

We know not what to do. If we emigrate again we shall be reduced to grievous straits. Since our return from our former emigration, we have been forced to sell our most valuable possessions, and the crops, which by the sale of our live stock we have been able to sow, are still in the ground. If we abandon these we have nothing.

It is impossible to remain longer thus, exposed continually to plunder and massacre, and subject to the incessant persecution of the Bulgarians. We appeal to the Signatories of the Organic Statute for assistance.

(Seals of the Mussulman Community of Tatar-Bazardjik and nine members, two names without seals.)

(Signed) MUSTAFA.
HADJI AHMET JADI AMIN.
FEYZI.
SULEIMAN ZEITUM.
NOURALLI RESHID.

No. 55.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 331.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 6, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to the Earl of Dufferin by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, inclosing a statement of the present financial position of Eastern Roumelia, as rendered by the Special Commission appointed for the purpose.

The despatch also contains a Report drawn up by M. Gueshoff, the Director of Finance, which confirms the conclusions arrived at by the Special Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 20, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the accompanying Statement of the present financial position of this province, as rendered by the Special Commission charged to report on the same. This is accompanied by the observations of Finance-Director Gueshoff on the subject, who is inclined to believe that the full deficit at the end of September next will not fall short of 25,000,000 piastres (100 to the Turkish lira), which he proposes to cover by a loan. But he chiefly desires to obtain some modification of the amount fixed as tribute to the Porte, which, he maintains, is altogether disproportionate to the means of the province. With this view he proposes that a special Session of the Provincial Assembly should be held to consider the financial question, and appeal to the Powers for a rectification of the Organic Statute in this respect, until at least the province recovers its normal status and solvency on which the amount of the annual tribute—£ T. 240,000—was calculated.

According to the Statement of the Finance Department, the annual Estimates have been hitherto invariably in excess of the actual receipts. Those of 1880-81, calculated at 75,000,000 piastres, only reached 59,000,000 piastres; and of 1881-82, estimated at 84,000,000 piastres, will hardly exceed 65,000,000 piastres, which—deducting tribute due to the Porte—leaves for provincial expenses 46,500,000 piastres in the first case and 40,500,000 piastres in the second. Of these, the following are the principal charges:—

	£ T.
Governor-General's Department (about)	11,200
Department of Interior	91,776
" of Finance	100,503
" of Justice	70,000
" of Public Works	89,224
" of Education	53,500
Militia and Gendarmerie	240,000
Provincial Assembly	4,500
Total	609,758

By the 16th Article of the Organic Statute the province is bound to contribute three-tenths of its revenues in normal years towards the general expenses of the Empire. M. Gueshoff desires that the annual tribute may be assessed invariably in this proportion, and not, as at present, be estimated at a fixed sum. But the above proportion was determined by the European Commission in expectation of an increasing—not diminishing—revenue, otherwise there was no need to fix £ T. 800,000 as the average of the same.

I must, however, state that more hopeful, if less interested, parties consider M. Gueshoff's views as much too pessimist, and are of opinion that the province is well able to support the burden laid on it by the Organic Statute; that the estimated revenue for 1882-83 is £ T. 882,324, nor is there reason to believe that this amount will not be realized.

In any case, everything depends on the coming harvest, which there is, however, too good reason to fear will not come up to the average.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

P.S.—The total amount already paid into the Ottoman Bank here on account of the tribute is £ T. 130,000, leaving a balance of £ T. 300,000 due at the end of the present quarter.

H. M. J.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

M. Gieshoff to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumélia.

(Translation.)

Le 20 Mars (n. s.) 1882.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI L'HONNEUR de vous faire connaître que le déficit vers la fin du mois de Juin 1882 s'élèvera à 11,127,482 piastres.

Ce déficit approximativement fixé, il nous reste à savoir quelle sera notre situation financière à la fin du premier semestre de l'Exercice entier de 1881-82, c'est-à-dire à l'époque de l'ouverture de la Session Ordinaire de l'Assemblée Provinciale. C'est le but poursuivi dans la seconde moitié de l'état que j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre.

Comme vous le constaterez, j'établis toutes les dépenses du premier semestre à 99,250,000 piastres, c'est-à-dire pour l'année entière de 198,500,000 piastres. Le supposant, avec le Conseil Privé, les économies de l'année entière de 3,925,258 piastres, on atteint la somme inscrite au Budget, 81,565,802 piastres.

Contre les dites dépenses du premier semestre, je suppose que la moitié des revenus probables de l'année 1882-83 sera prise. Ces revenus, l'excédent y compris, étaient estimés par l'Assemblée Provinciale dans sa dernière Session à 81,525,258 piastres. Nous déduisons de cette somme les déficits de plusieurs impôts, &c., 1,500,000 Piastres. Il reste ainsi des revenus supposés 72,025,258 piastres.

La moitié de ce montant, c'est-à-dire 36,012,629 piastres, est la seule somme sur laquelle nous pouvons compter pour couvrir le déficit de 11,127,482 piastres des trois premiers mois, et les dépenses du premier semestre, qui montent à 99,250,000 piastres. Nous aurons par conséquent, dans les circonstances les plus favorables, à la fin du mois de Septembre 1882, un déficit réel de 14,304,856 piastres. Nous ne savons pas cependant si c'est la seule somme qui nous manquera. Est-ce que nous n'aurons pas à parfaire quelque besoin d'argent, étant donné que d'après la Commission Spéciale, à la fin du second exercice financier, les arriérés avec les années non poursuivies s'élèvent chers à 10,000,000 piastres ?

Je crois que je serais plutôt optimiste que pessimiste si j'évaluais les arriérés pour la fin des trois et demi exercices à 10,000,000 piastres. Il suffit de nous rappeler que dans le cours de ces semestres, seuls appliqués pour la première fois, aussi bien la dîme selon le cadastre provisoire, que le nouvel enregistrement des impôts sur les édifices et le revenu, et nous serons convaincus que le somme de 10,000,000 piastres d'arriérés n'est pas exagérée.

En ajoutant cette somme au déficit de 14,304,856 piastres, la somme entière dont nous aurons besoin vers la fin de Septembre (quand les Délégués Européens à Constantinople nous adresseront notre dette totale envers la Sublime Porte) s'élèvera à 24,304,856 piastres.

Nous pouvons y ajouter la somme de 6,000,000 piastres que la ci-devant Administration de la Direction avait prise du Trésor Provincial pour acquitter les sommes dues aux différents cultes, sans qu'elle l'eut inscrite dans le chapitre des fonds de conditionnellement entrés. Mais ces fonds inscrits successifs Budgets instrument à faire cela. Mais réserve, quelque les Budgets successifs Budgets instrument à faire cela. Mais contre cette opération n'a pas encore été établie par la Commission Spéciale. Pour-tant on passer de l'article elle appartient, je ne me sais pas en entendu à ajouter cette somme à celle du déficit de notre Budget Provincial, déficit déjà assez considérable.

En tout cas, on peut heureusement dire que la somme qui nous manquera pour payer nos dettes à la fin des mois de Septembre 1882 ne sera pas inférieure de 25,000,000 piastres, dont 15,000,000 concernent le déficit réel, et les autres 10,000,000 second des arriérés. Cette dernière somme peut être couverte par un emprunt provisoire. Quand au déficit de 15,000,000 piastres, il serait à désirer qu'il fut couvert par des économies. Comme il vous est connu, quelques-uns se sont occupés de la question des économies à deux reprises, le Conseil Privé n'a pas pu les trouver des économies supérieures à celles de 3,000,000 piastres, conséquences ci-dessus pour l'Exercice de 1881-82, et de 3,000,000 piastres pour l'Exercice de 1882-83, sommes qui ont été prises en considération lors de la formation du présent état.

Je me permettrai d'observer que nous avons en premier lieu comme dépenses des économies à deux reprises, et cela de la manière suivante :

Dépenses réduites somme de 3,000,000 piastres certaines, et cela de la manière suivante :

Faire cesser la construction des casernes et de l'hôpital, ces économies-ci ne pouvant sortir les sommes à cet effet prévues de 1,000,000 piastres ; Provincial les sommes économisées dans le département de la Milice, 600,000 piastres ; faire sur l'Exercice de l'année 1882-83 des économies pour la somme de 1,000,000 ;

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

État de la Situation financière de la Roumélie Orientale.

	100 piastres = £ T.	
Reliquat laissé par l'Administration d'occupation	4,098,559	
Pris sur les sommes conditionnellement entrées	2,810,010	
		6,908,556
Revenus en espèces et en nature, pendant 1879–80	..	40,256,605
,, ,, 1880–81	..	54,157,072
Arriérés et avances de 1879–80 recouverts pendant 1880–81 ..	..	5,285,269
		106,607,502
Arriérés et avances à recouvrir de l'an 1879–80	..	3,385,460
Idem idem 1880–81	..	7,401,548
		117,607,000
Revenus supposés pendant l'an 1880–81, sont	81,565,802	
Détaillés— Piastres.		
1. Le déficit supposé de 17,000,000		
2. Le remboursement des avances inscrites .. 1,000,000		
L'excédent inscrit 1,730,856		
	19,730,856	
		64,534,946
		182,142,546
Déficit à la clôture des trois exercices	..	11,127,482
		193,570,029

	100 piastres = £ T.	
Dépenses pendant 1879–80	..	45,171,550
,, ,, 1880–81	..	62,532,677
		107,704,227
Reliquat du tribut dû à la Sublime Porte pour l'année 1880–81	..	4,300,000
		112,004,227
Dépenses supposées pendant l'année 1881–82	81,565,802	
Recettes supposées	3,000,000	
		81,565,802
		193,570,029
Au déficit ci-contre, qui sera à la fin de Juin 1882, de ..	..	11,127,482
Nous aurons besoin vers la fin de Septembre, 1882, de—		
1. Pour des dépenses courantes pour six mois, à £ T. 45,000	27,000,000	
2. Pour le tribut dû à la Porte pour les deux trimestres (1er Juin au 1er Septembre)	12,250,000	
		39,250,000
		50,377,482
En percevant la moitié des revenus supposés par le Conseil Privé pour l'an 1882–83 (81,525,253 piastres) moins le déficit pour l'année entière (3,500,000 piastres) égal à 72,025,253 piastres	..	36,012,626
Déficit réel	..	14,364,856
Arriérés supposés provenant des trois et demi exercices financières	..	10,000,000
Par conséquent, à la fin du mois de Septembre il nous manquera	..	24,364,856

total 3,000,000. Mais, après défalcation de ces 3,000,000, notre déficit effectif vers la fin du premier semestre de l'exercice actuel ne sera non plus réduit à moins de 12,000,000 piastres.

Il est de mon devoir de remarquer que ce déficit ne se serait pas produit si la Commission Européenne s'était conformée jusqu'à la fin à l'Article 16 du Statut Organique, qui porte que notre province doit payer à l'Empire trois dixièmes de ses revenus, et si elle n'avait pas fixé dans l'Article 1er des Annexes, No. 9 du Statut Organique, ces revenus, à l'immense et fictive somme de £ T. 800,000; mais la situation ruinée n'avait pas été prise en considération sérieuse par l'honorable Commission Européenne. Pour couvrir notre énorme dette de £ T. 245,000 envers la Sublime Porte, on avait dû admettre lors du vote des différents Budgets des revenus exagérés, et nous sommes maintenant menacés d'un déficit considérable.

Il est de mon devoir d'attirer à temps votre attention et celle du Comité Permanent sur ce déficit pour que les mesures absolument nécessaires puissent être prises sans retard, afin que ce déficit soit couvert et l'état général des finances publiques amélioré.

Le Directeur des Finances,
(Signé) J. EST. GUESHOFF.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 210. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 8, 1882.*

WHEN Prince Alexander of Bulgaria passed through Vienna about a week ago, he abstained from seeing Count Káluoky, and it is understood that, as he was going to St. Petersburgh with the hope of being able to induce the Russian Government to remove M. Hitrovo, their Agent at Sophia, he wished to be able to state that he was acting for himself, and without prompting from Austria.

It is believed that M. de Giers is disposed to accede to Prince Alexander's wishes, but M. Hitrovo is connected by marriage with General Ignatiew, who is likely to continue to support him as he has hitherto done, and through whose influence he obtained his present post after the defalcations in the Consular chest at Constantinople while he was Consul-General had led to the belief that his future employment in the public service was out of the question, even by a Government so little anxious about the integrity of its officials.

Some of my colleagues have received accounts from the Agents of their Governments at Sophia stating that the intrigues of M. Hitrovo against the Prince have been of the most flagrant and dangerous description, and that he had lately gone the length of asserting, as regards the army, that, though it was under the Prince with respect to any requirement for its service beyond the frontiers, it was within the Principality dependent upon the Russian Government, and that, as their Representative, he (M. Hitrovo) must be consulted upon everything connected with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 57.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, May 8, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14, Political, of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, during the past week, there appears to have been some revival of the insurrectionary movement in this province. Larger bands of insurgents have been met with again, and more daring raids have been made by them on unprotected villages than of late.

I myself have just returned from a short tour in the Zagorja, and can testify to the still unsettled state of the country. Two days before I was at Kalinovik a raid had been made on the village of Obalj and a number of cattle driven off, and the very night I was at the former place a band of insurgents came within sight of the camp, and some shots were exchanged with a patrol.

A large gathering of insurgents, under the leaders Sali Forta, Tingus, and Stojan Kovačević, is reported from the district of Cerni Ricka. According to the statements of the gendarmes they number 800 men, but this is probably an exaggeration. On the Igman there is also a band of about 200, who are said by the peasants to be all well armed with Snider rifles and revolvers.

Troops have been sent from Serajevo to scour the country in several directions, but the insurgents will probably nowhere make a stand, and it is not improbable that the troops may return without having met a single armed rebel.

The forests are now in full leaf, and the insurgents will find no difficulty in concealing themselves and in evading the troops. Their tactics will be now more than ever to avoid all unnecessary encounters, but to attack weak convoys and peaceful villages in order to obtain provisions, and to harass the troops by their superior mobility.

There is no doubt that the Austrians have a very hard task before them to restore complete tranquillity and security to the country. A certain number of insurgents have undoubtedly returned to their homes of late, but as soon as they have got a little money by the sale of their farm produce, and have sowed their fields, a good many, I fear, will again take to the hills. It must be remembered that such a life has no hardships for them at this season. They can obtain sufficient to eat, are in no fear of the troops, and during the summer months like the idle roving life they lead in the woods.

The solution of this difficulty seems to me to become more and more difficult every day. Concessions to the insurgents will be of no avail now, and order can only be re-established by the continued maintenance in the province of an overwhelming military force. Three precious years of tranquillity have been lost. Nothing has been done during that time to improve the condition of the people or to gain their sympathies, but they have been harassed by a badly-conducted European Administration, unsuited to the backward state of the country and its inhabitants. What is required is a more simple and primitive, and less costly, style of government, conducted by upright, impartial, and unprejudiced officials. Good employés have been unwilling to come to Bosnia, and the administration has hitherto been chiefly carried on either by incapable and corrupt persons who were unable to obtain employment in their own country, or else by young inexperienced men, unfitted for the high positions to which they were prematurely promoted, and for the difficult duties they were suddenly called on to perform.

The endeavour also from the first to raise as large a revenue as possible has been highly detrimental to the Austrian Government, whereas a few millions of florins, judiciously devoted to the reduction of taxation until the final settlement of the agrarian question, would have gone far to gain the sympathies of the population, which are now estranged for many years to come, and would have saved the very heavy expense at present incurred to suppress the revolt.

At the time of the occupation of this province in 1878 the population was cowed, and there also then existed a large party in the country in favour of the Austrians. Advantage, however, was not taken of these circumstances, three years have been thrown away, and now, if success in the administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina is expected, a fresh start on an entirely different principle, and, to a great extent, with a change of officials, must be made as soon as order has been restored to the country.

I would mention in conclusion that the present Governor-General and Commander-in-chief of the province, Baron Dahlen, although a man of capacity and of the highest integrity, is in such wretched health that he is quite incapable of efficiently performing his duties, and it is most urgently necessary that a man of greater strength and energy be intrusted with the task of introducing the requisite changes and reforms in the local administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 58.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21, 1 P.M.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 21, 1882, noon.*

DERWISH PASHA, commanding the Turkish forces in Albania, has been summoned here, and arrived two days since.

No. 59.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May 12, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, reporting information he has received with regard to the persecution to which the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria are being subjected.

I have not failed to communicate to Mr. Natchovitch the facts stated in Mr. Dalziel's despatch, and his Excellency having requested me to furnish him with a written statement in order that he might make inquiries into the different cases, I have forwarded to him a Memorandum, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Mr. Natchovitch told me that he had been informed by Hadji Mehmet Ali, the Turkish member of the Council of State, that the Mussulmans in the district of Rustchuk were discontented and anxious to leave the country. He understood, however, that this discontent was due to the fact that the Turks in many cases did not understand Bulgarian, and that consequently misunderstandings arose between them and the authorities. The Turks also complained of the increased taxation, which, however, had to be borne by all the inhabitants of the Principality. He had, however, no information with regard to the persecution alluded to by Mr. Dalziel, which he trusted would prove to be exaggerated. He regretted, however, that, in spite of all the efforts of the authorities, there was no doubt that brigandage still existed in the eastern part of the Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Mr. Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, May 6, 1882.*

IN my despatches of 25th January and 29th March allusion is made to an increased persecution of the Mahommedan population by Christians; and in various communications addressed to you last year, I have mentioned the inadequate provision for the public safety in this part of Bulgaria.

Latterly, and since the journeys of Messrs. Kratchevich and Economof, the state of the country has got worse, and the desire amongst the Turks to leave is, I believe, more universal.

I am informed that there is a Sub-Prefect at Popkieni, a village in the Rasgrad Prefecture, who has organized a system of persecution with the avowed intention of driving the Turks from the country.

I understand that the Sub-Prefect of Balbunar has been dismissed, and if this is so he has signalized the end of his reign by at least permitting a series of atrocities of the most shameful and revolting character; amongst others, I may cite the following:—

At Vetova, some Bulgars informed two Turks that they were wanted at Balbunar. The Turks at once went with them, and they had scarcely left the village when the Bulgars shot them down; one was killed outright, and the other very seriously wounded. This incident being denounced five persons were arrested, but shortly afterwards released on bail, given by a dascalos or village interpreter.

At Karaac (I use the spelling of Kanitz map), near Balbunar, two persons have been killed, but I do not know the details.

At Musafeilar, a band of about thirty persons, disguised in the costume of Turkish soldiers and well armed, entered the mosque while the inhabitants were at prayers, about 8:30 or 9 P.M., and ordered them to remain on their knees on pain of death. One man having risen was at once struck down by a blow from a sword on the back of the head and killed; the others were then ordered one by one to pay ransom money, and tortured until it was paid. The brigands displayed an intimate knowledge of each person's circumstances, and in this manner collected about 15,000 piastres; they noticed the absence from the mosque of one man, and asked where he was. The reply was given by one of the band, "Oh, he is lying dead beside the Government granary," and it appears that this was true. The poor man had been at home, and his wife, who had been out for water, told him to go out and see what was going on, for something very extraordinary had happened in the village: he took his gun and went out, at once stumbled on a post of three men, who were on guard, and who shot him dead.

At another village near Musafeilar, but whose name does not appear on the map, this band tortured two Turks in the following manner; they heated a cauldron, such as every village house possesses, and placed it red hot on their heads.

The victims revealed their hiding place before they died, and the brigands were rewarded by finding the large sum of 60,000 piastres therein.

This was reported to me by a Turk whose information I have always found accurate and confirmed by the Mufti.

I have not telegraphed these circumstances, because I thought it possible that, after all, there might be to some extent exaggeration or mis-statement, and I desired time for consideration and inquiry; also, horrible as are the details, it is more the state of anarchy into which the country is actually drifting rather than the individual crimes, which seems to me the matter of greatest importance from a European point of view.

I may be wrong, but I desire here to record my opinion, that if these crimes are not directly instigated by some persons in high position beforehand, the effect is at least the same, for they are never punished; and I think it possible they are meant to bring about an universal confession that the Bulgarians cannot govern the country by themselves, and that there must be a Russian occupation.

In my conversations with the Minister of the Interior, and, indeed, with all other authorities, they profess a desire that the Mahommedan population should remain; but there can be no doubt that this desire is not shared by the lower orders, who universally wish to inherit the fields of the Turks without being able to comprehend that such a result would be, even to themselves, a serious loss; and whatever fair words may be spoken by the authorities to the Representatives of European Powers, as they take no means to carry their so-called intentions into effect, it must be concluded that they have no desire to do so.

In addition to the dismissal of the Balbunar Sub-Prefect, those of Biela and Rustchuk have also been dismissed; against the latter I have never heard anything said, and I should have thought him one of the best of this class of functionary existing; but whatever be the cause, he is replaced by a man who is notoriously much worse, having been, to my knowledge, dismissed already from Varna, Rustchuk, and Biela successively for gross misconduct.

I am of opinion that there are no grounds for the existence of Sub-Prefects; certainly the Turkish Government, which was too highly concentrated, did not have them, or if there were some "Mudirs," they were by no means so numerous as the Sub-Prefects now are, amounting to about fifty-eight; and the Turkish Government had to combat Russo-Bulgarian intrigues, whereas the Bulgarian Government has nothing of a similer sort to fear; and as the Bulgarians complain that they are obliged to employ bad men because they have not a sufficient supply of capable ones, this might be easily obviated by getting quit of the class altogether, along with their secretaries and other followers, confiding the village administration entirely to the Mayors, who should be invariably of the nationality of the village.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Natchovitch.

M. le Ministre, *Sophia, le 12 Mai, 1882.*

M'étant conformant au désir que votre Excellence a bien voulu exprimer dans notre entretien d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de transmettre sous ce pli un Mémorandum des informations qui me sont parvenues au sujet des traitements auquels les Turcs seraient exposés dans différentes localités de la Principauté.

Je profite, &c.

(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59.

Memorandum.

À VITOVA l'incident suivant se passa dernièrement.

Deux Musulmans partirent de ce village pour aller à Balbounar, ayant appris que leur présence y était demandée. En sortant de Vitova quelques Bulgares tirèrent sur eux, en tuèrent un sur place et blessèrent l'autre très gravement.

Cinq invidus furent arrêtés pour ce crime, mais après un peu de temps ils furent mis en liberté sous caution.

À Musafeilar une bande composée d'environ trente personnes, bien armées et déguisées en uniforme de soldats Ottomans, pénétrèrent dans la mosquée vers 9 heures du soir, pendant qu'on était à la prière, et ordonnèrent à tous ceux qui s'y trouvaient de rester agenouillés sous peine de mort. Un individu qui se leva fut atteint sur la tête d'un coup de sabre qui causa sa mort; tous les autres furent forcés, sous peine de torture, de payer une forte rançon. Les brigands, qui paraissaient connaître fort bien les moyens de chaque victime, empochèrent la somme de 15,000 piastres. S'étant aperçus de l'absence de la Mosquée d'un des habitants du village, ils demandèrent ou il se trouvait. Un des brigands répondit qu'il était étendu mort près du dépôt de grain du village. Cette réponse n'était que trop vraie, car le pauvre homme ayant quitté sa maison à la prère de sa femme pour savoir ce qui se passait dans le village, rencontra un avant-poste de la bande de brigands, qui le fusillèrent.

Dans un autre village situé non loin de Musafeilar, deux Musulmans furent mis à la torture par ces mêmes brigands, qui leur placèrent sur la tête des marmites qu'ils avaient chauffées au rouge, et par ce moyen barbare forcèrent les victimes à déclarer la cachette ou se trouvait la somme de 60,000 piastres.

No. 60.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 361.)

Constantinople, May 15, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 159 of the 31st March last, I have communicated to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of the reply given to Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia by the Bulgarian Government to the complaints made by the Sublime Porte against the conduct of that Government in regard to brigandage on the frontier, claims on the "Caisse des Orphelins," non-compliance with the Ottoman Passport Regulations, and destruction of State property.

His Excellency, in thanking me for the information, stated that he had already received, through the Ottoman Ambassador in London, the text of M. Vulcovitch's Memorandum to which the Ottoman Government had replied in a statement, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, setting forth the Turkish view of the case.

His Excellency also complained of the conduct of the Bulgarian Government with respect to these questions, and instanced, as a breach of faith on their part, that of the legalization of notarial acts establishing the rights of non-resident Mussulman landlords to their estates in Bulgaria.

His Excellency stated that this had been made the subject of a special arrangement between General Ehrenroth and Nihad Pasha, the Ottoman Commissioner at Sophia, but that the execution of it had been delayed until M. Vulcovitch succeeded the former in office, when he repudiated the compromise arrived at by his predecessor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Statement.

I.—*Brigandage.*

L'AFFIRMATION de M. Vouleovitch "que des bandes de brigands ne se sont jamais formées en Bulgarie depuis la constitution de la Principauté et qu'aucune

bande n'a été signalée au Gouvernement Princier comme ayant franchi la ligne de démarcation," est tout à fait contraire à la vérité et démontre avec quelle insouciance, quel manque de déférence ce fonctionnaire répond aux représentations que les Consuls-Généraux se trouvent dans le cas d'adresser au Gouvernement Princier.

Les actes de brigandage commis par les bandes venant de la Bulgarie et signalés par les Gouverneurs-Généraux et les commandants militaires des provinces limitrophes ont fait, justement, depuis la constitution de la Principauté, l'objet de communications réitérées de la part de la Sublime Porte, soit à l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople, soit directement au Gouvernement Princier par l'entremise de Nihad Pacha.

M. Zancoff, pendant qu'il était aux affaires, avait bien reconnu lui-même que les auteurs de ces actes étaient les émigrés Bulgares de la Macédoine agglomérés sur la ligne de démarcation et avait promis de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour interner ces gens dans la Principauté. Cet aveu, joint au fait bien connu, parmi tant d'autres, des soixante-dix à quatre-vingts brigands qui, débouchant de la Bulgarie, furent attaqués et dévalisés le 26 Juin, 1880, un convoi d'émigrés Musulmans campés tout près d'Egri-Palanga, dément formellement l'affirmation de M. Vouleovitch.

M. Vouleovitch affirme encore "que le Gouvernement Princier a proposé au Gouvernement Impérial une entente commune à intervenir sur les mesures à prendre pour la sécurité de la ligne de démarcation, et que la Sublime Porte s'y est refusée toujours." Mais c'est tout le contraire qui est arrivé. La correspondance qui a été échangée et les pourparlers qui ont eu lieu à ce sujet le prouvent jusqu'à l'évidence.

Au commencement de l'année 1880, le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères avait proposé à l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople l'adoption d'un des trois modes qu'il indiquait dans une lettre adressée le 20 Mai à Nihad Pacha. Depuis et durant deux ans tous les efforts du Gouvernement Impérial tendant à amener une entente sont demeurés sans résultat. Devant ces faits indéniables quelle valeur peut avoir l'assertion de M. Vouleovitch? Les Consuls-Généraux des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Sophia, ordinairement si indulgents pour les hommes et les choses de la principauté, ont sévèrement jugés dans leurs rapports le fonctionnaire qui, par des affirmations si inexactes, compromet la dignité de l'Administration Bulgare. Le refus persistant de cette Administration de se prêter à une action commune est d'autant plus regrettable qu'il a eu pour effet de rendre les efforts isolés du Gouvernement Impérial stériles; les brigands, pourchassés par les troupes Ottomanes, trouvent au delà de la ligne de démarcation asile et impunité. Au moment où la Sublime Porte, placée ainsi dans l'alternative douloureux de forfaire à l'obligation de défendre ses populations des provinces limitrophes contre les exactions des brigands, ou de poursuivre les malfaiteurs au delà de la ligne de démarcation, à tout fait pour éviter les mesures extrêmes, M. Vouleovitch reconnaissant la dignité de cette attitude s'est laissé entraîner à des manifestations d'ardeurs guerrières pour le moins déplacées.

II.—*Caisse des Orphelins.*

Dans la question de la consignation au Cheikh-ul-Islam Capoussi des quotes-parts dues par les Caisses des Orphelins aux Musulmans émigrés, il s'agit moins de leurs réclamations en elles-mêmes, qui ne sont guère contestées par le Gouvernement Princier, que du retard injustifiable apporté par les autorités Bulgares à régler ces mêmes réclamations reconnues justes, et consistant simplement en la restitution des fonds qui, déposés aux Caisses des Orphelins d'après les dispositions de la loi Ottomane en vigueur à cette époque, doivent faire retour aujourd'hui au Cheikh-ul-Islamat.

Pour justifier ce retard si préjudiciable aux orphelins des Musulmans émigrés qui depuis quatre ans ne peuvent recouvrer ni le capital déposé ni les intérêts qui forment leur unique moyen de subsistance, M. Vouleovitch cherche à faire croire (1) que le Gouvernement Impérial n'avait pas encore fait la remise des Caisses des Orphelins de la Province du Danube qui, à la suite de la guerre, auraient été transportées à Constantinople, et dont il énumère bon nombre à tout hasard; (2) qu'il a fallu édicter au préalable une nouvelle loi sur la tutelle, ainsi que le règlement sur le fonctionnement des Caisses afin de pouvoir régulariser la liquidation des Caisses des Orphelins administrées sous l'autorité Ottomane; (3) qu'enfin si la question n'est pas résolue il faudrait en rechercher la Cause dans l'état de désordre et d'irrégularité des Caisses, aussi bien que dans la multiplicité des réclamations de quotes-parts à examiner.

Il n'y avait à Constantinople que quatre Caisses des Orphelins: celle de Sophia, de Tirnovo, de Sistov, et de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. La Commission Impériale en Bulgarie, chargée de leur remise au Gouvernement Princier, s'est empressé, dès son arrivée à Sophia, d'examiner avec le concours des employés Bulgares la Caisse de Sophia, d'en

confectionner les registres et de la consigner aux employés Bulgares contre un reçu régulier portant la date du 26 Juin, 1880. Les Caisses de Tirnovo et de Sistov ont été aussi examinées, et les registres en ont été confectionnées; mais comme jusqu'à la date 15 Mars, 1882, c'est-à-dire dans l'espace de deux années environ, les récépissés requis n'ont pas été délivrés à la Commission Impériale, elle n'a pas consigné la dernière Caisse de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik, qui se trouve encore en sa possession. En dehors de ces quatre Caisses, il n'en existe aucune à Constantinople. M. Voulcovitch en énumère bien un bon nombre encore, mais à tout hasard; car celle de Nicopoli et de Plevna, qu'il cite, devaient nécessairement tomber entre les mains des Russes et des Bulgares après la prise de ces places. Celles de Rasgrad, d'Eski-Djuma, d'Osman Bazar, transportées à la station de Rasgrad, ont été saisies par les Russes lors de la retraite des troupes Ottomanes, et doivent se trouver entre les mains des Bulgares.

Quant à la Caisse de Roustchouk, M. Voulcovitch prétend que Nihad Pasha lui aurait écrit le $\frac{7}{19}$ Juin, 1881, qu'il était prêt à la consigner avec celle de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. Mais dans sa lettre Nihad Pasha ne parle que des tapous ("titres de propriétés") de Roustchouk et de Hadji-Oglou-Bazardjik. Il n'a pas annoncé ni ne pouvait annoncer la consignation prochaine de la Caisse de Roustchouk, car elle se trouve entre les mains des autorités Bulgares, qui, d'après M. Voulcovitch, y ont même constaté un déficit de 70,000 piastres.

Non content de ces inexactitudes volontaires M. Voulcovitch affirme que la Caisse de Sophia aurait été emportée par le Mouhassébedji, qui l'aurait ouverte à Doubnitza pour disposer à sa convenance de sommes y contenues. Cette assertion n'est rien moins que vraie. Lors de la consignation aux employés Bulgares de la dite Caisse le Directeur de celle qui assistait à cette opération a déclaré que le cachet qu'il y avait apposé était intact. C'est alors seulement qu'on a procédé à l'ouverture de la Caisse.

Nihad Pasha a fait observer dans ses différentes lettres que ni la loi projetée sur la tutelle, ni la règlement relatif au fonctionnement de le Caisse ne pouvaient ni ne devaient être considérés comme impliquant la justification des atermoiements que subissaient les demandes des émigrés Musulmans en restitution de fonds déposés dans les Caisses des Orphelins d'après la disposition des lois antérieurement en vigueur. En effet, la loi à édicter ou édictée ne peut être applicable qu'à la gestion future des fonds des orphelins Bulgares. De plus, de même que le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas entendu la promulgation de cette loi pour faire rentrer les sommes dues par les particuliers aux Caisses des Orphelins, de même il aurait pu payer les sommes dues par les Caisses aux particuliers.

Pour démontrer les désordres et l'irrégularité qui auraient marqué la gestion des Caisses, M. Voulcovitch cite dans celle de Roustchouk d'une part, le déficit de 70,000 piastres, et, de l'autre, un effectif de 20,000 piastres.

Cette objection n'est rien moins qu'admissible. Dans la manipulation de la Caisse, le montant d'avoir et de devoir peut être porté ensemble; mais les registres indiquent spécialement et les sommes déposées pour les comptes des mineurs et les sommes employées en prêt, ainsi que cela était constaté dans le dépouillement des Caisses consignées à Sophia aux autorités Bulgares.

Nihad Pacha a préparé la liste des émigrés réclamant leurs quotes-parts.

En parlant de cette liste, M. Voulcovitch fait remarquer que dans quelques cas les sommes ne sont pas indiquées. Mais il s'agissait là d'une simple demande ayant pour objet de constater si dans les registres des Caisses ne figurait pas un dépôt du pétitionnaire. D'ailleurs, en admettant même l'existence d'irrégularités dans la gestion des Caisses, n'y avait-il pas là un motif de plus pour ne pas retarder si longtemps la liquidation? On aurait pu rechercher à temps et rendre effective la responsabilité des Directeurs des Caisses ou de leurs garants, conformément à la loi Ottomane régissant la matière.

En écartant cette possibilité l'Administration Bulgare n'a-t-elle pas assumé la responsabilité de ceux qui ne seraient plus en état de répondre.

III.—*Passeports et Permis de Route.*

Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a fait qu'user de son droit en engageant la Bulgarie à prévenir ses populations d'avoir à se conformer aux lois et règlements Ottomans concernant les passeports, sous peine d'encourir les sévérités légales que comporte le cas. La Sublime Porte croit également être dans son droit en avisant le Gouvernement Princier que les passeports Bulgares ne pouvaient être admis comme valables s'ils

ne portaient pas un signe quelconque indiquant la position de la Bulgarie vis-à-vis de l'Empire dont elle fait partie intégrante. L'histoire enseigne que des pays se trouvant dans une position analogue et jouissant de droits plus importants que celui de la délivrance des passeports, étaient obligés de reconnaître leur vassalité en plaçant sur les revers des monnaies l'effigie du suzerain.

IV.—*Démolition des Propriétés de l'Etat.*

Le Gouvernement Impérial peut se contenter de la réponse au Gouvernement Princier en tant qu'il s'agit des propriétés de l'État en ruines, "ce qui doit être dûment constaté par le concours de la Commission Turco-Bulgare," sous la réserve de tous les droits stipulés à ce sujet en faveur de la Sublime Porte par l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, et à condition que les autorités Princières se chargent de ne pas les laisser tomber en ruines jusqu'à ce que la question des propriétés de l'État soit vidée.

No. 61.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 22.*)

(No. 355.)

Constantinople, May 12, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, inclosing a copy of a Report drawn up by the Finance Director of Eastern Roumelia on the subject of the Provincial Tribute, and the difficulties which impede its due payment to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

Philippopoli, May 5, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Finance Director's Report to the Governor-General on the subject of the Tribute due to the Porte from this province, accounting for the irregularity which has occurred hitherto in the due discharge of this obligation, and explaining the measures he purposes adopting towards facilitating the more regular payment of the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

M. Guéchoff to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

(Traduction.)

Le 7 Avril, 1882.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre office du 22 Mars dernier, contenant copie de la note de son Altesse le Premier Ministre, en date du 16 Mars, 1298, relative au paiement du tribut dû par la province à l'Empire.

En réponse, je crois de mon devoir de m'expliquer tout d'abord sur les causes pour lesquelles le versement du tribut des années 1880-81 et 1881-82 a été retardé depuis si longtemps, et d'exposer ensuite les mesures qui, sur votre approbation, ont été déjà prises pour le paiement, dans la limite du possible, du dit tribut.

Dans un pays comme le nôtre, où n'existe pas la ressource de la dette flottante, à laquelle on peut puiser les fonds nécessaires, dans le cas où les revenus seraient trop tard ou insuffisamment perçus, les dépenses prévues d'avance ne peuvent être couvertes que lors de la perception des revenus. Pour que nous passions donc payer à la Sublime Porte les sommes fixées par l'Article I^er^ de l'Annexe No. 9 du Statut

Organique pour les années 1880-81 et 1881-82, il nous fallait percevoir à temps et totalement les revenus prévus dans le Budget des susdites deux années. Malheureusement, non seulement ces revenus n'ont pu être totalement perçus, mais une grande partie en est restée comme arriérés après la clôture de l'année financière respective. L'expérience a démontré, comme vous en êtes déjà convaincu, qu'en fixant, dans l'Annexe No. 9 du Statut Organique, les revenus de cette province à £ T. 800,000, la Commission Européenne n'avait pris en considération ni la situation ruinée du pays, ni les immenses sacrifices que la province devait faire dans les premières années de son existence autonome pour revenir dans son état antérieur à la guerre. En outre, la Commission Européenne a obligé la province à payer chaque année le tribut jusqu'au 1er Mars, lorsqu'une grande partie des revenus ne rentre, en réalité, qu'entre le 1er Mars et le 30 Juin, époque à laquelle l'exercice financier est clos d'après l'Article 59 de l'Annexe 9 du Statut Organique. Les prévisions des honorables Délégués des Grandes Puissances dans la Commission Européenne auraient pu être réalisées dans une certaine limite, si les mesures proposées par le Gouvernement Provincial en vue du relèvement de l'agriculture, source principale de la richesse du pays, avait été mises en vigueur. Mais, comme vous vous rappelez, la Sublime Porte n'avait pas alors voulu faire sanctionner la loi sur l'emprunt de 2,500,000 fr., par laquelle le Gouvernement Provincial devait venir en aide aux agriculteurs dépourvus de bétail, loi votée par l'Assemblée Provinciale dans sa Session d'Avril 1880. Un secours indispensable avait été ainsi refusé à l'agriculture de la province, et beaucoup de laboureurs étaient restés sans travail; d'autres avaient dû quitter le pays; des mauvaises récoltes consécutives avait augmenté le mal, et les finances publiques n'avaient pu que ressentir fortement l'influence de ces conditions défavorables.

Or, les revenus de l'année 1880-81, qui, d'après les prévisions budgétaires, devaient s'élever à 67,503,770 piastres, n'avaient atteint que 61,571,520·32 piastres, de sorte qu'il y eut 5,932,240·08 piastres de moins; ceux de l'année 1881-82, qui devaient s'élever à 82,334,946 piastres, n'avaient atteint que 62,334,946 piastres, sur lesquelles la somme de 47,866,543 piastres a été perçue jusqu'au 1er Mars, et il reste à encaisser 14,468,403 piastres environ, de manière qu'une somme de 20,000,000 environ sera perçue en moins.

Cette dernière somme ne peut être dès à présent fixée exactement, vu qu'une grande partie de la dîme de l'année 1881-82 n'a pas encore été vendue; que les listes des impôts sur les immeubles et leurs revenus n'ont pas été encore définitivement dressées dans quelques cantons, et la somme totale des revenus pour l'année 1881-82 ne peut être, partant, donnée qu'approximativement. Mais nous pouvons affirmer dès à présent que ces revenus ne dépasseront pas la somme de 62,334,946 piastres ci-dessus énoncée, et que les revenus effectifs des deux derniers exercices financiers sont de 25,032,248 piastres au-dessous des chiffres prévus dans les Budgets de ces deux années. Il est vrai qu'il y avait en pendant ce temps quelques économies considérables dans les dépenses ordinaires, économies qui réduisent le déficit effectif, à la clôture de l'Exercice 1881-82, à 11,000,000 piastres environ. Mais si nous ajoutons à ce déficit effectif les arriérés de la somme d'environ 22,000,000 piastres que le Trésor provincial a à percevoir sur les impôts des trois exercices financiers de 1879-80, 1880-81, et 1881-82, vous comprendrez, M. le Gouverneur-Général, pourquoi, malgré tous ses efforts, la Direction des Finances n'a pas pu payer à la Sublime Porte le tribut de la province.

L'état de ce tribut est actuellement le suivant:—

Reliquat à payer pour l'année 1880-81, 1,196,545 piastres. Tribut pour l'année 1881-82, 24,500,000 piastres. Somme totale, 25,696,545 piastres.

Pour le payement de cette somme, la Direction des Finances a décidé de verser, sur votre approbation, à la succursale de la Banque Ottomane, toutes les sommes d'arriérés qui rentrent dans le Trésor provincial.

Ces arriérés s'élèvent, d'après les livres et les calculs de la Direction, à 22,000,000 piastres, savoir: de l'Exercice 1879-80 et 1880-81, 6,702,222 piastres; de l'Exercice 1881-82, environ 14,468,403 piastres; avances, 849,000 piastres; total: 22,020,625 piastres.

Des mesures ont été prises pour que des soins spéciaux soient mis à la perception de ces arriérés; des ordres ont été donnés aux préposés des finances de faire connaître, tous les quinze jours, à la Direction, les sommes entrées dans les Caisses des départements; la partie non-vendue de la dîme de 1881, qui rentre dans les arriérés susmentionnés sera vendue le 9 du courant, et le produit de cette vente, ainsi que de celle des grains récemment vendus et de tous les arriérés en général, sera versé à la Banque Impériale Ottomane pour le compte du tribut provincial. La Direction des Finances

espère pouvoir rembourser bientôt une grande partie de ce tribut, dont le payement est un de ses premiers soucis.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Directeur,
(Signé) TW. EUSTRATIEFF GUÉCHOFF.

Pour traduction conforme:
Le Directeur de la Chancellerie du
Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) G. PAVLIEFF.

No. 62.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 22, 1882, 3·50 P.M.*

AT Cettinjé the Crivoscian insurrection is now considered as ended, the insurgents on Saturday evening having passed into Montenegro, and having been immediately disarmed. One important band of about 400 insurgents is still active in the Herzegovina on the north-eastern borders of Montenegro.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 63.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, May 19, 1882.*

ON the strength of a telegram from Chachak of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that a convoy of rifles has been stopped by the Servian authorities at that place, on its way from Bulgaria to Bosnia. The rifles were in the charge of armed Montenegrins, who were found to be furnished with a Russian passport, which had been *visé* at Sophia.

These are probably a part of a large number of Martini-Henry rifles which were taken from the Turks at Plevna, and later given by the Russians to the Bulgarian Government. My Turkish colleague told me some time ago that he had information to the effect that several thousands of these rifles had been sold by the Bulgarian Government to a Russian Panslavist Society for the nominal price of 3 fr. per rifle, and that it was intended to convey them partly through Albania and partly through Servia to the insurgents in Bosnia. He warned his own Government of the transaction by telegraph, in order that any passing over Turkish territory might be seized and confiscated as contraband.

Chachak is a town situated about three-quarters of the way from the Bulgarian to the Bosnian frontier, so that it would seem that the armed Montenegrins had managed to perform the greater part of their journey without attracting suspicion. They have been stopped in a district where the feeling in favour of aiding the insurgents is very strong, and where the Government has many enemies in consequence of its determination to enforce the absolute neutrality of Servia in the conflict going on beyond its western borders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 64.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 25.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 8 Mai, 1882.*

JE suis obligé de revenir encore sur la question agraire en Serbie. Par mes précédentes communications votre Excellence a été à même de se faire une idée de l'état de choses créé par cette loi inique.

Après les démarches que nous avons faites auprès des Puissances Signataires du

Traité de Berlin et les assurances qui nous ont été données, nous étions en droit de nous attendre à ce que le Cabinet de Belgrade, tenant compte des représentations de ces Puissances, finirait par donner satisfaction aux justes réclamations des propriétaires Musulmans des territoires cédés. Notre espoir a été déçu : la situation précaire faite à ces malheureux, loin de s'améliorer, continue à empirer chaque jour. Les autorités Serbes ne perdent aucune occasion de leur faire subir de nouvelles avanies. A bout de patience, les infortunés Musulmans viennent d'adresser une nouvelle requête à la Sublime Porte pour implorer son intervention auprès des Puissances. Le Gouvernement Impérial croirait manquer à son devoir s'il ne renouvelait pas son appel aux Cabinets co-signataires du Traité de Berlin en vue d'inviter le Gouvernement Serbe à la stricte exécution de cet acte international.

En ayant l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie de la dite requête, je vous prie d'attirer sur son contenu la plus sérieuse attention de M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères. Nous aimons à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, mu par ses sentiments d'humanité, voudra bien faire parvenir à Belgrade des représentations énergiques pour amener le Gouvernement Serbe au respect des décisions du Congrès de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Petition.

Belgrade, le $\frac{11}{23}$ Avril, 1882.

(Traduction.)

LE Gouvernement Serbe, qui a foulé aux pieds le Traité de Berlin, ne tient aucun compte des protestations de la Sublime Porte.

Les Serbes font estimer par leur Commission Agraire à moitié prix les biens et les fermes des propriétaires Musulmans, et, non content de cette manière d'agir arbitraire, le Gouvernement Serbe crée mille difficultés aux Musulmans dans la possession des propriétés qui leur restent.

Le Gouvernement Serbe donne à loyer les khans et les boutiques situés dans les villages et appartenant aux Musulmans; et lorsque ces derniers réclament leurs maisons et leurs boutiques, les Serbes les brûlent et les détruisent.

Toutes nos protestations auprès de la Sublime Porte et des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin contre ces agissements du Gouvernement Serbe n'ont abouti à rien.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Serbie vient de déclarer officiellement que personne n'a le droit de s'immiscer dans les affaires du Gouvernement Serbe.

Les Puissances n'ayant rien fait pour mettre un terme à notre déplorable situation, les protestations et les notes adressées au Gouvernement Serbe par la Légation Impériale à Belgrade ne sont pas prises en considération.

Les Serbes rendent chaque jour de plus en plus oppressifs les moyens qu'ils mettent en œuvre pour anéantir les 150,000 Musulmans et faire disparaître leurs droits qui sont reconnus par les Articles XXXV et XXXIX du Traité de Berlin.

Nous avons adressé par télégraphe une nouvelle protestation aux Puissances, ainsi qu'à la Sublime Porte, dans le but de les prier une fois de plus de faire cesser les oppressions dont nous sommes victimes de la part des Serbes.

Nous prions votre Excellence, au nom de la personne sacrée de notre auguste Souverain, de faire les démarches nécessaires pour nous faire indemniser de nos biens incendiés, et pour qu'il nous soit permis de posséder librement nos fermes.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 65.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 90.)
Belgrade, May 20, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I have it on reliable authority that the convoy of arms seized at Chachak had actually reached the outskirts of Ushitza, a town situated only a few hours from the Bosnian frontier, when, in consequence of a secret intimation to its escort that the

Prefect of the town was prepared to stop it, it returned with speed to Chachak, where the seizure was effected in pursuance of telegraphic orders.

From the further information now received, it appears that only 150 rifles have been captured. The escort consisted, however, of sixty fully armed Montenegrins, under the command of Stefan Lukitch Jovanovitch, formerly a Russian officer, and lately expelled from the Servian army, and Jovan Popovitch Lipovatz, also retired from the Russian army, in which he was a lieutenant of the Imperial Guard. According to the latest accounts, the band was trying forcibly to make its way past Ushitza into Bosnia, and although orders had been sent from the capital for its arrest and disarmament, it was not certain that means would be found to be at hand for carrying them into effect. The population of the district is friendly to the cause for which the band is going to fight, and considering the circumstance that it was allowed to pass almost through Servia before it was stopped, it is difficult not to believe that some of the local authorities likewise would rather it should escape than be arrested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 66.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 3.)
Prevesa, May 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day's date to the Earl of Dufferin relating to the pursuit of brigands and other steps taken by the local authorities in connection with the public security in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

Prevesa, May 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that an engagement between the troops and the brigands took place on the 5th instant near the village of Zermon, district of Conitza, in which the Chief, Liakos, was killed, and three of his band wounded. Seven more brigands were about the same time captured in the district of Janina.

I have also the honour to report that all criminal refugees are ordered to leave Prevesa within a few days' time, and further, that the proclamation of martial law in Prevesa has also been communicated to the various Consulates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 67.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 371.)
Constantinople, May 20, 1882.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 654 of the 4th August last I had the honour to report to your Lordship the difference which had arisen between the Bulgarian Government and the Sublime Porte relative to the decision of the latter to transact all business with the Government of the Principality through a Board appointed to deal with the affairs of the "privileged provinces."

I now learn that, through the good offices of the Russian Government, a solution of the difficulty has at length been found, and an arrangement arrived at which is said to be satisfactory to both parties.

In the future the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent will address himself directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in all matters which are strictly political, while the current business will be transacted through the medium of the competent Turkish Department.

I have been informed at the Sublime Porte that instructions in this sense are daily expected by the Bulgarian Agent here, and that, on their arrival, steps will immediately be taken to negotiate the details of the arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 68.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, May 22, 1882.

THREE of the Mussulman proprietors who are still waiting to see the first "para" of the four years' arrears of the rent of their lands, and, as they state, to have those lands returned to them, called on me to-day, and handed me the address of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I conversed with them for some time on their grievances, and while promising to continue, as opportunity occurred, my efforts to induce the Servian Government to treat them and the numerous body of dispossessed proprietors whom they represented with the justice and consideration that was their due, I pointed out to them that in their address they treated the Agrarian Law, together with the Agrarian Commissions and their decisions, as though they had no existence, and claimed the simple restitution of all their lands as though they were theirs in simple and undisputed freehold. I reminded them that the Servian Government had always contended that, with few exceptions, their farms did not come under the category of the property referred to in Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the Servian tenants who had long cultivated them in undisturbed possession had claims on them not inferior to those of the Mussulman seigneurs. And with regard to their request for a Mixed Commission to decide on their claims, I told them I could hold out to them no hope that the Powers would be inclined to insist on such an arrangement, which would certainly be opposed by the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Turkish Proprietors to Mr. Locock.

Belgrade, le $\frac{12}{24}$ Mai, 1882.

Excellence,

NOUS Soussignés, représentants de 150,000 Musulmans, venons en leur nom et au nôtre, exprimer nos très humbles remercîments à Sa Majesté la Reine, pour avoir daigné accueillir favorablement notre supplique, et nous faisons des vœux sincères pour la santé et la vie de Sa Majesté.

Nous remercions en même temps votre Excellence d'avoir bien voulu être l'intermédiaire de son Gouvernement auprès de la Serbie et de nous faire savoir la réponse de cette dernière.

Cependant, désirant faire connaître à votre Excellence les injustices et les avanies dont nous sommes l'objet de la part du Gouvernement Serbe, nous la prions daigner accepter une requête que nous lui présenterons à cet effet et de vouloir bien faire les démarches nécessaires pour qu'elles soit prise en considération.

Néanmoins, veuillez nous permettre, Excellence, de vous exposer ici succintement l'objet de cette requête.

Nous demandons l'exécution littérale des Articles XXXV et XXXIX du Traité de Berlin et la restitution des meubles et immeubles comme: tchiftliks, maisons, boutiques, bans, moulins, et autres, qui nous ont été ravis par le Gouvernement Serbe. Nous réclamons, en outre, les loyers de quatre années de ces immeubles ainsi que les revenus de nos tchiftliks; enfin, et pour que l'injustice du Gouvernement Serbe

soit prouvée convenablement et pour que nous puissions obtenir justice et réparation des pertes qu'on nous fait subir, nous sollicitons la formation d'une Commission Mixte.

Veuillez, &c.
(Mandataires de 150 Musulmans),
(Signé) CHALID BEY,
Fondé de pouvoirs des Musulmans de Nich.
(Signé) SULEYMAN,
Fondé de pouvoirs des Musulmans de Lescovatz.
(Signé) NÉVZAD BEY,
Fondé de pouvoirs des Musulmans de Procouplié.

No. 69.

Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.

(No. 29.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1882.

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of Petition addressed to me by the representatives of the Mussulman land-owners at Nisch, Lescovatz, and Procoplie.

I have to instruct you to inform the petitioners that their Memorial has been received, and that Her Majesty's Government hope that on the reassembling of the Skuptchina the proposed compensation of the Mussulman proprietors in accordance with the awards of the Agrarian Commissions will be carried into effect.

You will acquaint the Servian Government with the purport of the Memorial and of the reply which you have been directed to return to it, and you should bear the matter in mind in case it may hereafter appear to you desirable to remind the Servian Government of the promises it made on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 70.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord,

Cettinjé, May 11, 1882.

WITH reference to the reported presence in Montenegro of many thousands of refugees from the Bocche di Cattaro and the occupied provinces, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, until about three weeks ago, there were no large bodies of refugees in the Principality excepting the families of the Crivoscian insurgents, numbering about 1,300 souls.

However, the last operations of the Austrian troops in the Herzegovina resulted in forcing across the frontier about 2,500 peasants, including men, women, and children; and to nearly the whole of these refugees the Montenegrin Government is obliged to make such an allowance of grain as its scanty means will permit, and which is barely sufficient for the sustenance of these unfortunate people.

The above information has been obtained by me directly from the sources most likely to be best informed; but it is necessary that I should add that there are persons in an official position in Montenegro who wish it to be currently believed that the refugees number more than 10,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 71.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord,

Cettinjé, May 14, 1882.

WITHOUT entering into a discussion upon the importance of the encounters occurring both in the Bocche di Cattaro and the occupied provinces between the Austro-Hungarian troops and the insurgents, or as to the number and strength of the latter, I will only venture to report to your Lordship that the feeling prevailing in all

circles of the Principality is that the state of affairs in the disturbed districts has become chronic, and that a change is in no way likely to be brought about through the efforts of General Jovanovich and his subordinates.

The Proclamation lately published, offering a free pardon to those who will make their submission before the 24th instant, is said to exclude, for one reason or another, nearly the whole of those who have taken up arms against Austrian rule, and that therefore it will have no good result.

Up to the present time, each military operation undertaken with the object of driving the insurgents into Montenegrin territory has failed, although the Prince's troops have on every occasion been held in readiness, as prearranged with General Jovanovich, to disarm all those who might be forced to take refuge over the border.

Prince Nicholas has expressed himself as much gratified by the acknowledgments of the Emperor of Austria's satisfaction with the strict manner in which the Montenegrins are observing their obligations of neutrality, repeatedly conveyed to him through Baron Thoemmel.

The Prince is also greatly pleased with the cordial support which he receives from the Austrian Minister Resident in his untiring efforts to secure the friendly attitude of his people, and His Highness has again told me how much he regrets that his good offices cannot be availed of by the Austro-Hungarian Government to bring about an understanding between it and the insurgents, which he asserts is quite within his power.

It is not difficult, however, to observe through the foregoing official statements a certain amount of satisfaction at the small probability of a speedy pacification of the disturbed districts; and I am more convinced than ever that there are those who can exercise a certain control over the insurrection, other than the Prince, who consider it expedient to keep it alive, as they believe they are striking thereby an effectual blow against Austria by imposing on her an enormous financial expenditure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 72.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 22, 1882.*

IN the course of Saturday afternoon, the 20th instant, all the Crivoscians who had hitherto been able to baffle the efforts of the Austrian troops to drive them into Montenegro passed over into the Principality, and were disarmed by the Montenegrin force held in readiness for that purpose.

At Cettinjé it is stated that the Crivoscians have voluntarily sought refuge in the Principality, and were in no way forced over the border through the action of the Austrian troops; but at the same time, it is admitted that the insurgents had exhausted all their stores and supplies of ammunition, and were unable to replenish them.

The refugees have been assigned quarters at Niksić, and assert that they intend to establish themselves permanently in Montenegro.

I am informed by Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy, who saw Prince Nicholas yesterday, that His Highness does not hesitate to say that the Crivoscian resistance owes its sudden collapse to the strict neutrality which Montenegro has been obliged to observe through failure of support in influential quarters abroad.

It appears, therefore, that the expectation entertained by me from the commencement of the disturbances, that, if the real instigators did not unmask themselves by the middle or end of May, the troubles in the Illyrian Provinces would quickly subside, is about to be realized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 73.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 22, 1882.*

AS it appears from the comments which have been made in Vienna and elsewhere on my despatch No. 27, Most Confidential, of the 9th March last, that it has been assumed that I was attempting, on my own observations, to fix upon the Turkish Government the responsibility of the insurrectionary movement in the occupied provinces, I trust your Lordship will pardon me for venturing to point out that I merely recorded the fact that the accusation in question came solely from Russian and Montenegrin quarters.

For my part, I have never had a doubt as to who were the real instigators of the troubles, but at the same time, I have been aware that the Slavophil organization has counted much on the sympathy it might receive from Mussulmans, and I am sure that the Austro-Hungarian Agents in these regions and elsewhere in Turkey are far too capable and observant not to have informed their Government of the feeling of intense hatred which has arisen and exists among all Mussulman subjects of the Sultan in Europe against Austria.

Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, tells me that he perceives and knows that very strong suspicions, although unexpressed, exist that the insurrection in the occupied provinces, which is now principally headed by Mussulman nobles, is supported by the Sultan's Government; and he admits that nothing but the very correct attitude and conduct of the Porte and its authorities has been able to impress the Mussulman natives in these parts with the conviction that the Turkish Government is determined to afford no encouragement to the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 74.

Said Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 2.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 21 Mai, 1882.*

PAR les communications précédentes de mon Département, votre Excellence a été à même de se faire une idée de la situation intolérable créée par la Loi Agraire. Poussé à bout par les vexations et les injustices auxquelles ils sont en butte, les propriétaires Musulmans viennent d'adresser à son Altesse le Prince de Bismarck et aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Berlin un télégramme pour implorer leur intervention en vue de leur faire rendre justice.

En vous transmettant, ci-joint, copie de ce télégramme, je vous prie de vouloir bien appuyer la demande qui en fait l'objet auprès du Principal Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAÏD.

Inclosure in No 74.

Telegram addressed to Prince Bismarck and the Ambassadors at Berlin.

NOUS, 150,000 Musulmans, chassés de Serbie, attendons en vain, il y a trois années, qu'on nous rende notre propriété, dépouillée et détruite par la Serbie. Notre propriété était garantie par la Convention de Nich, l'assurance personnelle du Prince de Serbie, et par le Traité de Berlin qui dernier n'a aucune valeur près du Gouvernement Serbe. Nous avons posé les armes parce que la Serbie, selon la Convention de Nich, a garanti l'inviolabilité de la vie, propriété, et honneur, et la Serbie n'a tenu ni un mot. C'est pourquoi nous, représentants des Musulmans en état bien précaire, nous nous sommes adressés, il y a quelques jours, aux Cabinets Européens, afin qu'on nous fasse justice et nous rende notre propriété et qu'on répare le détriment. En chef doyen de la diplomatie, vous ne permettrez point l'abolition du Traité fait sous votre égide, et

nous osons vous prier d'insister près des Gouvernements Européens afin que nos droits de propriété ci-haut mentionnés soient pris en considération.

Veuillez agréer nos respectueux hommages.

(Signé) SULEIMAN,
Fondé de pouvoir des Musulmans de Lescovatz.
(Signé) HALID BEY,
Fondé de pouvoir des Musulmans de Nich.
(Signé) NEVZAD BEY,
Fondé de pouvoir des Musulmans de Procouplié.

No. 75.

Said Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 2.)

Sublime Porte, le 21 Mai, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, pour son information, copie d'un Rapport que notre Agent Commercial à Varna vient d'adresser à mon Département pour lui signaler les vexations dont les Musulmans de la Bulgarie continuent à être victimes de la part de leurs compatriotes Chrétiens.

En vous priant d'attirer l'attention du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité sur les actes de cruauté relatés dans ce Rapport, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) SAÏD.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Rapport.

PLUSIEURS informations identiques, qui me sont données, l'une après l'autre, par des personnes qui m'inspirent toute confiance, m'engagent à avoir l'honneur de signaler à votre Excellence les faits suivants :

Il y a quinze jours, une bande de dix Bulgares de Kara-Aliler, village du district de Baltchik, ont forcé le domicile de Hadji Mustapha, leur compatriote, qui, éveillé en sursaut au milieu de la nuit, a eu beau vouloir calmer par ses paroles et ses prières les assaillants. Ceux-ci, sourds à toute voix, sans égard à la faiblesse des femmes, après les avoir battues sans pitié, se saisirent du maître de la maison, le dit Hadji Mustapha, et de son fils; et, après les avoir garrottés, peu contents des blessures saignantes de ces infortunés ils eurent l'intention infernale de les brûler vivants, en mettant le feu au pétrole qu'ils leur ont versé à cette fin.

Heureusement, les voisins Musulmans, accourus aux cris désespérés de ces victimes, purent les retirer à temps des mains de leurs bourreaux. Cependant leurs blessures étant très graves, on a fait transporter ces malheureux à Baltchik, où l'on est en train de les soigner.

Le chef de la communauté Musulmane de Pravadi, Moustapha Effendi, qui vient d'arriver à Varna, rapporte, à son tour, qu'un Musulman, s'étant rendu dernièrement à la forêt voisine de Pravadi pour y faire du bois, laissa à son entrée son enfant à garder leur charrette. Celui-ci, après une attente de plusieurs heures, ne voyant pas revenir son père, s'étant mis à pleurer, quelques passants, pris de pitié, se sont enquis du motif de ses pleurs : l'enfant leur parla du retard de son père. Soupçonnant quelque malheur, ils pénètrent dans la forêt où, après quelques recherches, ils trouvent le corps du malheureux bûcheron mutilé. D'après le dire de Moustapha Effendi, la voix publique accuse de ce meurtre les gardes forestiers du district de Pravadi.

Comme depuis mon arrivée dans le pays j'ai eu souvent le regret d'entretenir votre Excellence de faits semblables de cruauté et d'inhumanité à l'égard des habitants non-Bulgares, sans avoir entendu, en même temps, que la punition ait suivi de près le crime, j'ai lieu de croire, M. le Ministre, que cette fois-ci encore les criminels resteront impunis.

Cet état de choses, l'impunité dont jouissent les malfaiteurs, quand ils sont Bulgares, les vexations incessantes dont souffrent gratuitement les Musulmans et les Grecs, sont des faits que personne ici ne met en doute. C'est pourquoi, à côté de l'émigration des Musulmans, nous allons prochainement assister à celle des paysans de Kestriteh et d'Aspros. D'après mes informations particulières, ces derniers se dirigent

vers la Grèce et les frais de leur voyage et de leur installation seront supportés par le Gouvernement Grec.

Ces informations ne me paraissent pas dénuées de fondement; car, d'après les derniers journaux Grecs, le Cabinet Hellénique fait figurer dans le Budget une somme de 300,000 fr. qui sera affectée, chaque année, aux dépenses de l'émigration en Grèce des Grecs Orthodoxes originaires du littoral de la Mer Noire et d'autres localités de l'Empire.

Daignez, &c.

No. 76.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

Salonica, May 23, 1882.

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of the 18th instant to the Earl of Dufferin relative to the Mahommedans of Thessaly and to the efforts made by General Grivas to conciliate and protect them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, May 18, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Mahommedans of Thessaly continue to expatriate themselves: 300 of them took their passage for Smyrna and Beyrout on board the Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's steamer "Danaë," which left Volo on the 13th and touched here on the 14th instant.

On the other hand, I hear that some of those who quitted Thessaly shortly before and after its evacuation by the Turks have returned to their homes.

I also hear from some influential Turkish land-owners, who have recently come here from Larissa, Carditza, and Pharsala, that General Grivas was trying to conciliate the Mussulman population, and taking energetic measures for their protection and the maintenance of order and tranquility on the border.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 77.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

Constantinople, May 29, 1882.

(No. 394.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica,* reporting the continued emigration of Mahommedans from Thessaly.

Mr. Blunt also states that General Grivas is making vigorous efforts to conciliate the Mussulman population and to preserve order on the frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 78.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

Corfu, May 29, 1882.

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a Report I have received from Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura, giving some

* Inclosure in No. 76.

interesting information respecting the districts of Arta and others in the territory recently ceded to Greece.

With regard to the brigandage, which has been rampant near the frontier between Yanina and Prevesa, I have heard from the latter place that several have been recently killed, and others taken in that district.

From all I have heard from reliable sources here, there is no doubt but that it will be some time before the Arta district is in any satisfactory order, and my informants say that it was a pity that, in drawing the frontier-line, the gardens and lands in the vicinity of Arta, and belonging to its inhabitants, were separated from them. This circumstance has hitherto been the cause of all the complications that have arisen there since the ultimate cession of the territory, and tends to keep up the ill-will between the Turks and Greeks of the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Santa Maura, May* 20, 1882.

REFERRING to my despatch to you of the 1st April last, I have the honour to report that, according to further intelligence from the Arta district, it would appear that the condition of things arising from the dividing line drawn between the population and its lands on the right bank of the Arachthos has not improved. There is no security whatever beyond the Arta bridge, while the lands of the Artens and the produce thereof are said to be entirely at the mercy of robbers whom the "Hodouds"* stationed in that quarter are either powerless or unwilling to control.

This precarious state of things, which has already brought about, since the annexation, considerable pecuniary losses to the exasperated natives concerned in the said lands, is naturally giving rise to discontent, and it will be fortunate if serious difficulties, if not actual collisions, do not arise when the time for gathering the crops comes.

Nor is the state of affairs more satisfactory further north in the direction of the Plákka bridge (district of Tzumerka), where collisions occur frequently between the Greek patrols and bands of brigands attempting to cross over with the object of making raids into Greek territory.

With regard to the Arta "land question," I understand that the District Law Courts have recently given several judgments in favour of the landlords, which, however, have been appealed against by the tenants, who are being stirred up by agitators. The issue of these appeals to the higher Court, and the measures that may eventually be adopted by the Government respecting this question, are anxiously looked forward to.

2. It is reported from Prevesa that martial law has been again proclaimed in the districts of Yanina and Prevesa, for the avowed purpose of suppressing brigandage and of clearing the country of Greek fugitives from justice, who poured in from all parts of Greece (Santa Maura and Acarnania giving a large quota), and whom it has been decided to deport to Asia Minor. A Turkish steamer will embark them for Smyrna. It is a very sound measure on which the Greek Government may have occasion to congratulate themselves in the interest of the administration of justice in the kingdom, or at least in these parts of it, as it may tend to check crime committed in many instances, owing to the facility afforded to criminals of the worst class by their political "patrons," who not only assist them in crossing over to Epirus for the purpose of evading pursuit, but in many cases furnish them with letters of "recommendation" under various pretences to friends in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

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* Frontier guards.

No. 79.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 5, 6·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 5, 1882, 5·44 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's instructions No. 29.

The petitioners and the Turkish Legation do not cease to protest against the awards of the Land Commission.

Consequently, instead of expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the proprietors will shortly receive the compensation based on those awards, may I record an assurance given to me by the Servian Government to that effect?

It is desirable at this particular moment to place that assurance on record.

No. 80.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received by telegraph, June* 5.)

(No. 98. Extender.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June* 5, 1882.

WITH reference to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 29 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that protests against the awards of the Servian Agrarian Commissions continue to be lodged both by the representatives of the Mussulman land-owners and by my Turkish colleague.

This being the case, I would venture to suggest that, instead of expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the landowners will shortly receive compensation in accordance with those awards, I may be authorized to state to the petitioners that the Servian Government has given me an assurance that such will be the case.

To place this assurance on record is at the present moment specially desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 81.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord, *Athens, May* 31, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 27th instant I received a telegraphic despatch in cypher from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that he had been informed by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica that the Turkish Governor-General had told him that the brigand chief, Niko, and his band had recently crossed over into Thessaly, and were supposed to be hiding in Mount Olympus, and that he had approved of a suggestion made by Mr. Blunt to the effect that the Turkish and Greek frontier authorities should act together against brigandage, and he also gave Mr. Blunt to understand that if the Greek authorities in Thessaly were to make such a proposal to the Turkish authorities in Macedonia it would receive earnest support.

On receipt of this telegram I at once communicated its substance to M. Tricoupi, and expressed to his Excellency the hope that the Hellenic Government would do all in its power to co-operate with the Turkish authorities in order to put a stop to the scourge of brigandage.

On the 29th instant M. Tricoupi addressed to me a note, copy of which is inclosed herewith, in which his Excellency stated that it appeared, from information he had received, that Niko was not at present in Greek territory, but that he had instructed the Greek frontier authorities to act, in case of need, in conjunction with the Turkish authorities, and effect, if possible, the capture of the brigand chief.

In the course of a conversation I held this day with M. Tricoupi, his Excellency said that it was very likely Niko and his band were hiding in Mount Olympus, but that that locality was not comprised within the limits of Greece, and that he hardly thought Niko would venture to cross the Greek frontier, where, owing to the energetic and hitherto successful steps taken by General Grivas, the Commander-in-chief of the Greek forces in Thessaly, brigandage might virtually be considered as entirely at an end.

I inquired of his Excellency what steps, if any, had been taken with a view to renewing the Convention relative to brigandage that had been concluded between Greece and Turkey, and which had been signed at Caniidgia on the 20th April, 1856.

M. Tricoupi replied that, according to Article XII of the Convention that had been signed at Constantinople on the 24th May, 1881, "the Hellenic Government shall propose to the Chamber a Law for the renewal of the Convention of 1856, relating to the suppression of brigandage," that in his opinion the working of that Article might have been more properly made to apply to both Governments (Greek and Turkish), inasmuch as it was Turkey, and not Greece, that had denounced the Convention of 1856, but that he had recently instructed the Greek Minister at Constantinople to inform the Porte that he was quite ready to lay before the Greek Chamber, during the present Sessions, a Bill for the renewal of the Convention of 1856.

Before taking any legislative steps in the matter, said M. Tricoupi, I am anxious to ascertain whether, in the event of such a Bill meeting the approval of the Chamber, the stipulations of the Convention would be agreed to and acted upon by the Turkish Government, and I am expecting very soon a reply from Constantinople on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 81.

M. Tricoupi to Mr. Ford.

Athènes, le $\frac{17}{29}$ *Mai*, 1882.

M. le Ministre,

EN réponse à la lettre confidentielle que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser avant-hier au sujet du chef de bande Nico, je m'empresse de vous informer que ce brigand ne se trouve point sur le territoire Hellénique, d'après la communication que, sur mon invitation télégraphique, vient de me transmettre le Commandant de l'armée de Thessalie. Pour le cas plus probable où cet individu se trouve sur le Mont Olympe et n'a pas encore passé la frontière, j'ai recommandé à nos autorités d'agir, dans la mesure du possible, de concert avec les autorités Ottomanes, dans le but de rendre efficace la poursuite du brigand en question.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 82.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord,

Athens, May 31, 1882.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, in which I reported to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi had stated to me that, in his opinion, brigandage was virtually at an end in Thessaly, I may mention that his Excellency informed me, in course of conversation, that he had disapproved of the action that had been taken by General Soutzo, who had been in command of the Greek forces in Thessaly before he (M. Tricoupi) had assumed office. General Soutzo, he said, had, on the occasion of the evacuation by the Ottoman troops of the newly-ceded provinces, divided the dangerous classes residing in the province into three categories.

The first comprised persons who had committed crimes and misdemeanours prior to the year 1854, but who were then living quiet lives.

The second comprised persons who had been mixed up in revolutionary movements, and who had at some period of their career committed felonies, but who were considered, if not reformed characters, at least to be leading inoffensive lives.

The third category comprised persons who, having committed crimes in the Kingdom of Greece, had made good their escape into Thessaly (before that province had been ceded to Greece), and had been declared outlaws.

With these persons General Soutzo had refused to meddle, but had left them at large and had granted them "permis de séjour." The total number of such characters M. Tricoupi estimated at about 300.

On his assuming office in the month of March last he determined to recall

General Soutzo, and to replace him by Colonel Grivas, who was, in consequence, raised to the rank of Major-General. The "permis de séjour" were at once disallowed, and steps were taken to apprehend the persons to whom they had been granted. Up to the present 190 of them have been captured and imprisoned, and M. Tricoupi informed me that only a few days ago he had heard from General Grivas to say that twelve of the most desperate individuals who were noted as brigand chiefs had escaped over the frontier, and had given themselves up to the Turkish authorities.

There is every reason to believe, said M. Tricoupi, that the remaining lot will soon either be captured or escape over the frontier, or else take such means of secreting themselves that no more cases of brigandage will be heard of in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 83.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord,

Athens, May 31, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 12th April, in which I informed your Lordship that M. Tricoupi intended submitting to the Greek Chamber certain Bills for the amelioration of the position of the Mussulman population in the newly-ceded provinces, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies and translation of two Bills that were passed on the subject by the Chamber on the 20th instant.

Mussulman women are exempted from personally appearing in Courts of Law as witnesses; their testimony, when required, will be taken privately and produced in Court in the form of affidavits.

The Mussulman subjects of the King of Greece in the new provinces will be exempted from obligatory service in the ranks of the army for the next seven years.

It is expected that these exceptional measures will be duly appreciated by the Mussulmans lately transferred to Greece, and that the benefit to be derived from them will check the tendency that has been recently shown on the part of these people to quit their homes and emigrate to Turkey and Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Law concerning the Examination of Mussulman Women as Witnesses.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE I. Whenever Mussulman women are summoned for examination as witnesses at a criminal case by the Juge d'Instruction they will give their affidavit under oath, in accordance with Article 124 of Penal Procedure, and this affidavit will be read at the Court of Justice.

The examination is made by the Juge d'Instruction or his substitute at the residence of the Chief Priest of the religious community, or at the residence of the witness.

Art. 2. In the event of the presence of a Mussulman woman being considered necessary as a witness before a Criminal Court, a decision of the Court must be taken to that effect with regard to ordering the personal appearance of such a witness.

Art. 3. In civil cases Mussulman women will always be examined by the Judge or Justice of the Peace, in accordance with the second paragraph of the first Article of this Law, in conformity with the provisions of Civil Procedure. An exception is made in some cases in which the possession to real estate is involved, in which cases she must give her evidence on the spot.

Art. 4. Whenever Mussulman women, after having been summoned, volunteer to appear personally before the Court or the Judicial authorities, they can do so, and be examined as witnesses, notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing Articles.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Law concerning the Postponement in the New Provinces of Liability to serve in the Army and Navy.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 1. The enforcement of Law concerning conscription for the army and navy is postponed up to the $\frac{1}{13}$th January, 1883 (for non-Mussulmans). This delay is extended up to the $\frac{1}{13}$th January, 1889, for the Mussulman population. The provisions with regard to the drawing up of the Matricular Book, containing a list of every male inhabitant in each commune, and the provisions respecting the voluntary enlistment and service, are maintained.

Art 2. The Prefects are authorized to replace or substitute the Mayors or their substitutes, and the Presidents of Municipal or Provincial Councils, in the execution of duties in connection with the drawing up of the Matricular Book, containing a list of the male population.

No. 84.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 294.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1882.*

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me on the 25th ultimo a despatch from the Porte relative to the grievances of the Mussulman land-owners in Servia, and on the 2nd instant his Excellency gave me a copy of a further despatch from his Government, inclosing the text of a telegram addressed by the representatives of those land-owners to Prince Bismarck and the Ambassadors at Berlin.

In a conversation which I had with Musurus Pasha on the 29th ultimo, I gave his Excellency the account which I had that day received from Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade of his interview with three of the Mussulman proprietors, on which occasion he had pointed out to them that the Address which they had presented to him treated the Agrarian Law, together with the Agrarian Commissions and their decisions, as though they had no existence, and claimed the restitution of all their lands as though they were their undisputed freehold; whereas the Servian Government had always contended that, with few exceptions, their farms did not come under the category of the property referred to in Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the Servian tenants who had long cultivated them in undisturbed possession had claims on them not inferior to those of the Mussulman seigneurs.

His Excellency maintained that the Agrarian Law had been passed with the view of nullifying the provisions of the Article of the Treaty. He denied that the Law, which had been passed subsequent to the Treaty of Berlin, could affect the provisions of that Treaty.

As your Excellency is aware, Her Majesty's Government received, towards the end of last year, assurances from the Servian Government that it was their intention themselves to pay the compensations awarded by the Agrarian Commissioners to the Ottoman land-owners. On the 19th April last Mr. Locock informed me, in reply to an inquiry which I had made as to the steps taken to carry out this undertaking, that the Servian Government had had under their consideration a scheme for carrying it into effect which was to have been submitted to the Skuptschina for approval, but that the sudden prorogation of that Assembly had temporarily prevented the Government from carrying out their intention. Mr. Locock has been authorized to inform the Mussulman land-owners of Nisch, Lescovatz, and Procoplie, who had petitioned Her Majesty's Government, of the assurances given by the Government of Servia, and he has been instructed to bear the matter in mind in case it should, after the reassembling of the Skuptschina, appear desirable to remind the Servian Government of the promises made by them on this subject.

Your Excellency will find the papers mentioned in this despatch in the printed correspondence forwarded to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 85.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 295.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1882.*

THE Turkish Ambassador placed in my hands on the 2nd instant a despatch from the Porte, of which a copy is herein inclosed, complaining of the ill-treatment of the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria by their Christian fellow-countrymen.*

I said I would make inquiries on the subject.

His Excellency, at the same time, reminded me that the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the demolition of the fortresses in Bulgaria, and the fixing of the tribute to be paid to the Sultan by the Principality, still remained unfulfilled.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 86.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 30, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I addressed to the Earl of Dufferin on the 27th instant relative to the brigand chief Nicko, and to the disposition evinced by Ghalib Pasha, Governor-General of the Vilayet of Salonica, to co-operate with the Greek authorities of Thessaly for the suppression of brigandage on the Turco-Greek frontier.

I also refer to the improved state of affairs in the districts contiguous to the Province of East Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, May 27, 1882.*

ON the 25th instant I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that Ghalib Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, informed me that the brigand chief Nicko and his band very recently crossed over into Thessaly and were hiding in Mount Olympus; also that his Excellency approved of my suggestion that the Turkish and Greek frontier authorities should act together against the brigands, and gave me to understand that if a proposal for joint action were made by the authorities of Thessaly to those of Macedonia it would have his earnest consideration and support.

Ghalib Pasha fully appreciates the importance of co-operative action in the above direction, but is unwilling to take the initiative in the matter; public feeling here is also anxious for the adoption of such a course, and my Hellenic colleague, M. Logotheti, has, I believe, recommended it to the favourable consideration of his Government.

I should add that Ghalib Pasha, in the course of our conversation, referred to the improved state of affairs in the districts adjoining East Roumelia; he praised the loyalty with which Aleko Pasha acts in all questions affecting public security on the border, and acknowledged that the East Roumelian police cheerfully and earnestly assist the Turkish troops in maintaining order and tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* No. 75.

No. 87.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 92.)

Athens, June 2, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 39 of the 28th March, which reached me on the 6th May, relative to the murders of Dervish Effendi and of a man named Djelil in Thessaly, and in which your Lordship instructs me to inquire and report to Her Majesty's Government as to the truth of the statements made with reference to those murders in the telegraphic despatch from Assim Pasha to the Turkish Ambassador in London, and which was communicated by the latter to your Lordship, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that after having made the necessary inquiries, the truth of the outrages in question has been confirmed by Her Majesty's Consul at Volo, by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, and by M. Tricoupi himself.

I am happy to be able to state to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi informed me this morning that the assassins (five in number) who murdered Dervish Effendi were captured a few days ago at Agia, in Thessaly, by a Captain of Gendarmes, and are now in prison.

Nothing has as yet been heard of the persons who killed Djelil, but active measures are being taken for their discovery and apprehension, and M. Tricoupi informed me he had every reason to hope they will prove successful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 88.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 96.)

Belgrade, June 3, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the three representatives of the Mussulman proprietors in the territory ceded to Servia called on me again to-day, and handed me another Memorial, of which a copy is herewith inclosed. The Memorial is being likewise addressed to the Representatives here of the other Powers parties to the Berlin Treaty.

The Memorialists repeat, on behalf of those whom they represent, their complaints of the inadequacy of the compensations awarded by the Agrarian Commission, amounting in some instances (so they state) to not more than one-tenth of the real value of their properties; they point out (and this is an undoubted fact) that they have been deprived of the revenues of their lands for three and a-half years; that much of their property has been destroyed, and that many of them are now reduced to a state of absolute want; and they wind up by requesting the appointment of a Mixed Commission, with the object—

1. Of inquiry as to the justice of their complaints.
2. Of fixing the indemnity for past damages.
3. Of devising means for insuring to them in the future the free possession of their property, as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

Having so recently told the memorialists that I could hold out no hope of the appointment of a Mixed Commission, and explained the contention of the Servian Government that the property referred to in the Treaty of Berlin was not precisely that which had been alienated by the Agrarian Law, I was surprised at the sweeping character of their requests.

They stated to me, however, that the Memorial had not been prepared by them, but by a Pasha at Vranja, who had sent it to them for translation and signature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Turkish Proprietors to Mr. Locock.

Belgrade, le 2 Juin, 1882.

Excellence,

NOUS Soussignés, mandataires des Musulmans habitant les provinces annexées à la Serbie, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce que suit:—

Nous sommes propriétaires de maisons, boutiques, hans, tchilliks, terres arables, pâturages, bois et autres immeubles sis dans les territoires annexés à la Serbie.

Toutes ces propriétés ont été, grâce à Dieu, sauvées de la destruction occasionnée par la récente guerre, et nous avions le ferme espoir qu'à la conclusion de la paix et quoique notre patrie ne fit plus partie de l'Empire Ottoman, qu'on nous laisserait prendre tranquillement possession de nos propriétés. En effet, les dispositions des Articles XXXV et XXXIX du Traité de Berlin garantissent tant aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens habitant les provinces cédées à la Serbie, avec égalité, la libre possession de leurs propriétés, leurs droits civils et politiques, comme le droit des gens, en vigueur chez toutes les nations civilisées, protège la propriété individuelle et la sauvegarde de la spoliation.

Malheureusement, il paraît que ni le Traité de Berlin, ni le droit des gens, n'est capable de protéger les Musulmans.

Car après l'évacuation des territoires annexés à la Serbie par les troupes Ottomanes et à peine le Gouvernement Serbe en devint-il possesseur que notre situation change. Notre bétail, nos instruments, nos meubles, nos grains, ainsi que nos récoltes encore vertes furent confisqués; nous avons été empêchés non seulement de réclamer les quatre années de revenus restés entre les mains des tenanciers, mais nos propriétés telles que maisons, boutiques, hans, moulins et autres immeubles furent détruites ou incendiées; on nous suscite mille espèces de procès plus injustes les uns que les autres, dont le résultat est toujours pour nous une condamnation, et comme conséquence, la vente à vil prix de nos propriétés par le Gouvernement Serbe. Les fonds des Caisses d'utilité publique appartenant également aux Musulmans et aux Chrétiens ont été perçus; les paysans Musulmans chassés de leurs foyers furent tout à fait privés du droit de propriété. Enfin, ce Gouvernement se comporte vis-à-vis de nous comme envers un ennemi, et malgré nos plaintes depuis trois ans et demi, il a décrété cette Loi inique qualifiée d'Agraire, dont chaque Article, depuis le premier jusqu'au dernier, contient notre ruine.

La Commission chargée de l'exécution de cette Loi s'est donnée en même temps la tâche de fouler aux pieds les droits sacrés des Musulmans.

A la suite de notre opposition à l'exécution de cette Loi la Sublime Porte protesta, sur quoi la Commission Agraire, dans l'espoir de se concilier les Musulmans et les amener à la soumission, estima à leur juste valeur les tchifliks de quelques individus, qui cherchent leur profit dans la ruine publique, ou termina à l'amiable les différends de quelques autres avec les tenanciers.

Les malheureux qui, sur les conseils de ces mêmes individus, se présentèrent à la Commission et qui virent celle-ci estimer leurs tchifliks au cinquième de leur valeur, se retirèrent désespérés, et les propriétés de ceux qui ne se présentèrent pas du tout, furent évaluées en leur absence au dixième du prix réel.

Nous fûmes donc obligés de recourir aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Etant convaincus que celles-ci sont garantes en vertu de ce Traité de la sauvegarde de nos droits, nous venons solliciter votre haute protection en vue de faire les odieuses vexations dont nous sommes l'objet de la part du Gouvernement Serbe.

Nous avons adressé une supplique dans le sens de celle-ci aux Ministres des autres Puissances à Belgrade.

Nous supplions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien vous joindre à vos honorables collègues à l'effet d'obtenir la formation d'une Commission Mixte—

1. Pour examiner si nos plaintes, étant à même d'en prouver la justesse, sont fondées ou non.
2. Fixer l'indemnité à nous payer pour les dommages éprouvés jusqu'ici.
3. De rechercher les moyens propres de nous assurer la libre possession de nos propriétés conformement du droit des gens proclamé une fois de plus par le Traité de Berlin, lequel attribue à la Serbie de nouveaux territoires.

En vous suppliant de bien vouloir prendre en considération ce qui précède, nous

la prions d'agréer les remercîments de 150,000 malheureux Musulmans ruinés et sans abri.

Très humbles,
(Signé) CHALID BEY,
Fondé de Pouvoirs des Musulmans de Niche.
(Signé) SULEÏMAN,
Fondé de Pouvoirs des Musulmans de Lescovatz.
(Signé) NÉVZAD BEY,
Fondé de Pouvoirs des Musulmans de Prokouplié.

No. 89.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, June 5, 1882.*

I HAVE just had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship for permission to make a slight change in the reply, which by your Lordship's despatch No. 29 of the 29th ultimo, I am instructed to return to the petition addressed to your Lordship on the 24th April by the Representatives of the Mussulman landowners at Nisch, Lescovatz, and Procoplic.

One of the reasons which have induced me to take this step is that the awards of the Agrarian Commissions, which I am instructed to say Her Majesty's Government hope will be on the reassembling of the Skuptschina carried into effect, formed the subject of strong verbal protest on the part of the Mussulman Representatives at the two interviews which I have very briefly reported in my despatches No. 92 of the 22nd ultimo, and No. 96 of the 3rd instant, while my Turkish colleague likewise told me on a recent occasion that the foreign Representatives here must be wrongly informed if they imagined that the claims of his countrymen would be settled by carrying out the iniquitously unfair awards of the Agrarian Commissioners.

The assurance of the Servian Government, to which I have taken the liberty of suggesting the reply might allude, was given to me more than a month ago, on two separate occasions, by the Minister of Finance and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. It was to the effect that the financial embarrassments of the Government through the Bontoux failure, would not be allowed to interfere with the project for the immediate indemnity to the landlords, in accordance with the awards of the Commissioners; that the project for carrying this out would be submitted to the Skuptschina during its approaching reassembly; and that there would be no difficulty in raising the money, the Government having every prospect of effecting a satisfactory arrangement at Vienna for that and other objects.

I regret, however, to say, that a few days ago, in the course of a somewhat informal and confidential conversation with the Minister of Finance, M. Mijatovich, his Excellency mentioned to me that the arrangement to which he had previously alluded had fallen through, and that he did not know where to look for the money. He did not attempt to conceal from me his annoyance, or his impression that the landowners had good reason to be dissatisfied with the delays from which many of them had been undoubted sufferers.

If I have omitted to report these conversations to your Lordship, my only reason has been a reluctance to trespass on your Lordship's time and attention, and a fear that I have already on previous occasions written too much on this subject.

It appears to me that in consequence of M. Mijatovich's last statement, and in view of the approaching reassembling of the Skuptschina, it would be desirable to place the more official assurance of the Foreign Minister on record. The petition to your Lordship found its way into the public prints, and it is probable that your Lordship's reply may also be published.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 90.

Mr. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 50. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, June 2, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 30 of the 19th May, inclosing copy of Sir Henry Elliot's No. 214 of the 11th May, in which his Excellency reports an attempt on the part of a number of armed men, provided with passports signed by M. Hitrovo, to pass through Servia on their way to the Herzegovina.

I am informed that a band of between 200 and 300 men, mostly Montenegrins, was organized in Bulgaria for service in the Herzegovina by a Montenegrin officer, formerly in the Russian service, Captain Jovanovitch, who had been presented to the Prince by M. Hitrovo, and who had applied, but unsuccessfully, for a commission in the Bulgarian army. These men, whose movements were closely watched by the Austrian Agent, and who were nearly all supplied with passports by M. Hitrovo, dispersed into small parties, with orders to reassemble in Bosnia. One of these parties, which included the Commander of the expedition himself, was stopped by the Servian authorities at Ushitze, but Captain Jovanovitch appears to have effected his escape. Should he reappear in Bulgaria his expulsion will be demanded by the Austrian Agent, who, however, complains of the supineness of the Bulgarian Government, not only in this but in other similar affairs, which he attributes, not so much to "mauvaise volonté" as to the incapacity of their local agents, and to the respect which a Russian passport in Bulgaria naturally inspires.

I believe that the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs contemplates remonstrating with the Russian Agency on the loose and careless manner in which their passports are given to Montenegrins, instances having been brought to his Excellency's notice in which several (some of them filled in with false names) have been granted on the application of a single individual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

No. 91.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 268.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 9, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, June 8, 1882.*

THE introduction of a native military organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the preparations made for enforcing the Landwehr service in Dalmatia, before referred to, point the moral of the recent insurrection, and complete its history.

That history is as yet both confused in detail and barren of instruction. The official Reports are scanty; eye-witnesses have failed me; and amid the intricacies of a little-known geography of unpronounceable names, it is hard to maintain the best-intentioned interest to any adequate effect.

I have not consequently committed myself to fitful reports on the progress of the military operations in these countries; but now that the campaign is really over, it will be useful to recall its main features, with a view of seeing what lessons they can afford us.

In order to assist this object, while waiting for the official account to be prepared

and published by the Austro-Hungarian Staff—a work that is to be commenced at once—I beg your Excellency's attention to the following summary, and remain, &c.

(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Report.

IN the middle of 1881 the Austro-Hungarian Government decided to extend the general obligation of military service in the Empire to the occupied Provinces of Herzegovina and Bosnia.

At the same time, the occasion was taken to attempt the formation of a Landwehr in those districts of South Dalmatia which since 1797 had enjoyed an immunity from all military duties on land.

It was thought that, by raising some corps of soldiers and police in Bosnia and Herzegovina the regular garrisons might be reduced, and the vacancies caused by the discharge of time-expired men could be more conveniently and economically filled by native recruits than by drafts from the home depôts.

As it turned out, to save the railway fares, marching allowances, and equipment of a few scores of men, the Government succeeded in provoking an insurrection, and spending 29,000,000 florins.

The Mahommedan part of the population was at no pains to conceal the disfavour with which it regarded these proposals. It resented the inquisitorial nature of obligatory service, and questioned the legality of a conscription for any other army but that of its suzerain, the Sultan.

The Christians of Cattaro equally protested against the enactments as a breach of faith with the Convention of Knezlac in 1869, and as the unnecessary disturbance of a valued tradition.

A common discontent thus binding the two parties, and perhaps animated also by the instincts of a common race, on both sides resistance was offered to the authorities. In Ubli, Orahovac, and the Krivosje on the Bocche di Cattaro, the men called out for enrolment refused to appear; then small predatory bands were noticed along the Montenegrin frontier, and on the 9th November an organized attack was made on the Austrian outposts, and the half-deserted forts of Dracalj and Cerkvice were captured.

Though it cannot be said that there was any organized revolt of the combined factions of Dalmatia and Herzegovina (their science and communication not extending as far), yet, no doubt, a common understanding and encouragement existed between them; there was an interchange of leaders and reinforcements, and, in spite of the efforts of the Montenegrin Government, intelligence and supplies were freely conveyed from the one to the other.

At first the hostilities were confined to sporadic skirmishes, attacks by insurgents on convoys, small armed detachments or gendarmerie posts, but, emboldened by time and number, they rapidly developed in importance.

Up to the 16th January, 1882, the scene of engagement had been along the Montenegrin frontier, from Bilek by Gacko as far as Ulok, but a week later saw the insurgents display a strategical plan in Herzegovina, and endeavouring to isolate Serajewo from communication with the coast and east by attacks at Konjica and Gorazda.

At this time their numbers were estimated at the most in the Zagoria, where 2,000 were collected under the leadership of Kovacevics and Tundus; round Foca and Gorazda were some 600 more, and from Glavaticejo to Konjica scattered "cetas," or clans, were observed of a total of about 500 in addition. In Dalmatia, round Dracalj, as many as 1,600 insurgents were reported.

Meanwhile, the Austrians were not backward in meeting this emergency.

At their disposal were 49 battalions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12 mountain batteries, with subsidiary services, and 8 battalions in Dalmatia; a total of 25,486 men and 1,386 officers.

Reinforcements to this force were at once dispatched, 7 battalions being sent to Bosnia, 8 to Herzegovina, and 13 to Dalmatia. Each battalion was raised to 650 men by calling in the men on furlough, special mountain batteries and Landwehr battalions were formed, the recruits for the reserve were called out for exercise, and the Delegations, convoked on the 23rd January, voted 8,000,000 florins towards the necessary expenses.

These measures were taken slowly, partly to allow the incubus of the mobilization to fall equally over the whole Empire, partly because the weather prevented the troops taking active operations with due chance of success.

To restrict the sphere of the Dalmatian insurgents' activity and cut them off from the littoral, a cordon of five battalions was established from Gruda to Orahovac. Here, established in strong positions, plentifully supplied from the rear, the troops waited reinforcements, and compelled their antagonists for the first time to act on the offensive, and it was not till March that any serious collision took place.

I will, before returning to the progress of events in this region, trace those which occurred in Herzegovina.

I have referred in general terms to the total number of troops available in Bosnia and Herzegovina; but for the special purpose of the insurrection there can only be taken into consideration the divisions at Serajewo and Mostar, under the command of Lieutenant-General von Dahlen, and a division at Ragusa specially formed under command of Lieutenant-General von Jovanovics, Governor of Dalmatia. These divisions furnished strong garrisons at Gorazda, Foca, Gacko, Bilek, Stolacs, and Trebinje, besides other places.

Towards the end of February a remarkable change was made in these commands, the troops in Bosnia being left to Lieutenant-General von Dahlen, and those in Dalmatia and Herzegovina being united under the General von Jovanovics, the direction in chief being left to the authorities in Vienna.

The usual distribution or order of battle of these corps was inapplicable to the guerilla nature of the campaign—the absence of roads and the difficulty of supply. The head-quarters of the divisions were left as above stated, and two additional ones were formed for Dalmatia; but each division was made up of four brigades, each capable of independent action, with two or more battalions and a battery of four guns. Thus a number of small flying columns was created, which were sent about as required, and the history of the ensuing operations is merely the relation of the performances the various expeditions rendered.

The first of these expeditions was the dispatch of a column (Hotze) from Serajewo on the 29th January to relieve Foca, and another under General Czveits from Mostar to reconnoitre the Zagoria on the 26th January.

Both these operations succeeded. By the 10th February General Czveits was firmly established at Zimje; had explored his front as far as Glavaticejo; and was able to give the information which decided the subsequent movement against the centre of the insurgent ranks. This was determined upon by Lieutenant-General von Dahlen (it is said against the inclination of General Jovanovics) on the 16th February, and four columns were directed to converge on the Zagoria, each consisting of three to four battalions, a battery of mountain guns, and a train of about 400 men. They were to set out on the 21st February, and unite on the Plateau of Kalinovic on the 24th February.

The first and principal column (Leddihn) marched from Serajewo, supported by the second (Arlow) from Trnova; these, after overcoming some slight resistance from the badness of their route, and from the insurgents, came into contact on the day and at the place appointed.

The third column (Haas) set out from Mostar, but diverted on its way by considerable bands of the enemy at Glavaticejo; it only came up on the 26th, while the fourth column (Sekulitch) coming from Gatko was stopped by snow at Fojnica, 7 miles off, and thus left a gap in the investment of the Zagoria, through which the insurgents easily slipped to Ulok.

The garrison at Foca was at the same time too seriously assailed to give its co-operation. It succeeded, however, in driving the enemy to the right bank of the Drina.

In consequence of this failure a similar converging movement was attempted against Ulok.

Czveits column was directed there by way of Nevesinje, and Arlow, Haas, and Sekulitch were ordered to combine in the advance. Only this last column, however, was able to give the required assistance, and arrive in time to act as reserve to General Czveits, when, after two days' fighting, he took Ulok on the 26th February. The other columns were delayed to the day after.

The insurgents took refuge in the Cemeno, and without fortifying or holding Ulok. General Czveits, supported by a fresh column (Zaubaue) from Gatko, and a

sortie from Foca, hurried after them. He scoured the country as far as Trientist on the 11th March, and found it deserted.

In his absence, the insurgents, numbering about 1,500, collected, and fell again on Ulok, and a third converging expedition was organized for their expulsion.

This was this time decisive. The columns of Arlow-Sekulitch and Czveits united with one under Schulemburg from Glavaticcjo without opposition at Ulok on the 20th of March, and leaving a battalion as garrison, chased the enemy across the Drina.

The insurgents were finally overcome at Celebic the 31st March by an expedition under General Obadich that issued from Foca, and swept the whole valley of the Drina as far as Gorasda.

It was during this sally that the insurgents suffered most loss, and for the only time were defeated in mass by the skilful dispositions of the Austrians. Hemmed in at the passage of one of the affluences of the Drina, the Tara, the insurgents were forced to expose themselves to a superior fire, and only crossed the river by leaving half their number in it.

This last expedition broke the back of the insurrection. The masses of the insurgents were dispersed, and though a few unimportant combats are recorded afterwards, they were so little considered that the flying columns were called in, and by the 8th April a reduction of the forces was debated. Supplementary credits were given the 15th April to the amount of 21,000,000*l.*

In Dalmatia General Jovanovics, remembering the lessons of 1869, acted on the good principle of never taking a step forward till he was sure it could be done with such weight that it would not have to be taken back.

After some preliminary skirmishing at Krusevice (the 29th January), Ledenice was taken (the 9th February), and reinforcements having arrived, and the way been fully assured, a forward movement was made in three columns from Orahovac, Ubli, and Ledenice on Dracalj the 8th March. This was supported by a flank attack from Trebinje, and, on the 10th March, Dracalj was taken with the most trifling loss. Though a counter-attack was made the following day the Austrians held their positions, and flank columns, sent out the 3rd and 5th April, from Dracalj, succeeded in effecting the pacification of the country.

This has been, however, at the expense of its mountain population, which, in large numbers, has taken refuge in Montenegro.

The disarmament of the remaining inhabitants has been proceeded with. A road is being made between Castelnuovo and Bratto, and four forts are being built at Greben, Bratto, Ledenice, and Cerkvice. A slight revival of disturbance south of Cattaro has been promptly suppressed (May 4), and though the troops remain unreduced till the required forts are completed, no further outbreak is anticipated.

Of course, until the official account be published in full, it is difficult to appreciate all the tactical lessons this campaign may afford; but from what has already appeared, a few deductions can be made. The mountainous, rugged, barren nature of the country, destitute of water, roads, or fuel, must be taken into the fullest account. The Austrians were greatly in a disadvantage, both in acquaintance of the localities and in facility of manœuvre, to their antagonists, though the performances of their troops, and the fatigues they endured without murmur, call for the highest praise. Their formations were not adaptable to the occasion. It is hard to say which would be. If, in too close an order, they offered a better aim to the adversary; if separated or scattered, they invited surprise and defeat by superior numbers. Their marches had to be protected, consequently, by independent parties of from half-a-battalion to two battalions strong, instead of the usual small patrols, to which, in the absence of parallel paths, only the direction of the general advance could be indicated.

Their columns had to be accompanied by artillery and train items of responsibility the insurgents were without, and which greatly increased the inertia of their movement.

The chief points of the insurgent tactics are the absence of reserves and the independent action of small bodies. The force is always fully deployed in a front line to give the greatest effect to their fire. Their knowledge of the country enables them to take up the best position, where they keep on the defensive, and establish stores of stones and rocks to add to their other ammunition by hurling them on their assailants. They were, during this campaign, well armed with Martini, Snider, and other rifles, and were in no want of cartridges.

Only artillery and turning movements can dislodge them, and the most noticeable feature of these operations was the heavy artillery fire from the Austrians that preceded every combat.

That the effect of this was not greater is due, I should imagine, to the 7 centim. mountain gun being too weak. It is already proposed to send into Bosnia and Herzegovina the 9 centim. gun, which is in use in the Tyrol, and has a heavier projectile.

But hitherto mountain batteries have been depreciated in this country, and many distinguished officers incline to the opinion that such a battery is never of the value of a company of infantry except for battering purposes; hence the full use of the artillery may have been overlooked.

The infantry, also, distinguished itself for its abundant fire, and the long ranges at which this fire was opened. The amount of ammunition expended was quite out of all proportion to the damage done. The troops seemed content to remain behind cover and take wild shots at uncertain objects, without remembering that, when destined for attacks, troops must reserve their fire for short distances and incisive bursts.

It was a difficulty to get the men to leave their cover, and the number of officers killed in relation to the rank and file bears humiliating testimony to this.

The drill-book of the Austro-Hungarian soldier is framed with regard to a great European war, and is not elastic enough to suit the exigencies of a guerilla campaign. The extended, loose formations of attack against well-disciplined troops must, at the expense of loss, resolve themselves into compacter bodies in cases like these; and that General Jovanovics at least was aware that some such change was required can be seen in a general order he issued, in which, while insisting on every expedition being started with the fullest complement of men estimated necessary, he invites officers accompanying them to study the best system of tactics applicable to the country where they may be engaged.

We must wait for the full history of the campaign to see what result was arrived at.

The insurgents, by an ingenious system of signals and beacons, by great activity, and by a terrorism over the villages, were assisted by the most accurate information of their adversary's movements, and in no case were they surrounded or captured in any number.

Not only were the Austrians deprived of this advantage, but they suffered in two or three instances from the ambuscades laid by the insurgents, from which a friendly notice from the inhabitants would have saved them.

In the operations against Ledenice, and on the coast of the Bocche di Cattaro, the troops were supported by the fire of gun-boats, the aim of the plunging fire from which was controlled by signals from the shore.

(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 92.

Mr. Strachey to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 27.)

Dresden, June 10, 1882.

My Lord,

MY Russian colleague informed me a few days ago of an intimation which he had received that he would shortly be named Minister at Constantinople.

I inquired if the Ambassadorial rank in Turkey was to be kept in abeyance in sign that Russia was dissatisfied with the Porte, or on account of obstacles connected with M. de Nélidow's rapid advancement.

M. de Nélidow replied that he was disposed to think that both the professional and the political reason dictated the form of his appointment. In the affair of the indemnity, and in other questions pending between the two Governments, the Turks had been anything but compliant, relying, no doubt, on the evident fact that Russia could not take serious steps to overcome their resistance. The suspension of the Ambassadorial rank seemed, therefore, a species of pressure appropriate to the circumstances.

The personal ground had also to be taken into account, but the expectation had been held out to him that his new post would ultimately be restored to its normal position. M. de Nélidow said that he did not at all know when he should be ordered to Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

No. 93.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, June 12, 1882, 3 P.M.

COUNT IGNATIEFF has resigned, and Count Tolstoi has been appointed to succeed him.

No. 94.

Mussulman Proprietors in Servia to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

Belgrade, le 2 Juin, 1882.

Excellence,

NOUS Soussignés, mandataires des Musulmans habitant les provinces annexées à la Serbie, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit.

Nous sommes propriétaires de maisons, boutiques, hans, tchifliks, terres arables, dans les territoires annexés à la Serbie. Toutes ces propriétés ont été, grâce à Dieu, sauvées de la destruction occasionnée par la récente guerre, et nous avions le ferme espoir qu'à la conclusion de la paix, et quoique notre patrie ne fit plus partie de l'Empire Ottoman, qu'on nous laissera prendre tranquillement possession de nos propriétés.

En effet, les dispositions des Articles XXXV et XXXIX du Traité de Berlin garantissent tant aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens habitant les provinces cédées à la Serbie avec égalité la libre possession de leurs propriétés, leurs droits civils et politiques, comme le droit des gens, en vigueur chez toutes les nations civilisées, protège la propriété individuelle et la sauvegarde de la spoliation.

Malheureusement, il paraît que ni le Traité de Berlin ni le droit des gens n'est capable de protéger les Musulmans.

Car après l'évacuation des territoires annexés à la Serbie par les troupes Ottomanes et à peine le Gouvernement Serbe en devint-il possesseur que notre situation change. Notre bétail, nos instruments, nos meubles, nos grains, ainsi que nos récoltes encore vertes furent confisqués; nous avons été empêchés non seulement de réclamer les sept années de revenus restés entre les mains des tenanciers, mais nos propriétés telles que maisons, boutiques, hans, moulins, et autres immeubles furent détruites ou incendiées; on nous suscite mille espèces de procès plus injustes les uns que les autres, dont le résultat est toujours pour nous une condamnation, et comme conséquence, la vente à vil prix de nos propriétés par le Gouvernement Serbe. Les fonds des Caisses d'utilité publique appartenant également aux Musulmans et aux Chrétiens ont été perçus, les paysans Musulmans chassés de leurs foyers furent tout à fait privés du droit de propriété. Enfin, ce Gouvernement se comporte vis-à-vis de nous comme envers un ennemi, et malgré nos plaintes depuis trois ans et demi il a décrété cette Loi inique qualifiée d'agraire, dont chaque Article, depuis le premier jusqu'au dernier, contient notre ruine.

La Commission chargée de l'exécution de cette Loi s'est donnée en même temps la tâche de fouler aux pieds les droits sacrés des Musulmans.

A la suite de notre opposition à l'exécution de cette Loi, la Sublime Porte protesta, sur quoi la Commission Agraire, dans l'espoir de se concilier les Musulmans et les amener à la soumission, estima à leur juste valeur les tchifliks de quelques individus, qui cherchent leur profit dans la ruine publique, ou termina à l'amiable les différends de quelques autres avec les tenanciers.

Les malheureux qui, sur les conseils de ces mêmes individus, se présentèrent à la Commission, et qui virent celle-ci estimer leurs tchifliks au cinquième de leur valeur, se retirèrent désespérés, et les propriétés de ceux qui ne se présentèrent pas du tout, furent évaluées en leur absence au dixième du prix réel.

Nous fûmes donc obligés de recourir aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Étant convaincus que celles-ci sont garantes en vertu de ce Traité de la sauvegarde de nos droits, nous venons solliciter votre haute protection en vue de faire [*sic*] les odieuses vexations dont nous sommes l'objet de la part du Gouvernement Serbe.

Nous avons adressé une supplique dans le sens de celle-ci aux Ministres Résidents à Belgrade et aux Ministres des Affaires Étrangères des autres grandes Puissances.

Nous supplions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien instruire votre Ministre Résident à Belgrade, afin de se joindre à ses honorables collègues à l'effet d'obtenir la formation d'une Commission Mixte—

1. Pour examiner si nos plaintes—étant à même d'en prouver la justesse—sont fondées ou non;

2. Fixer l'indemnité à nous payer les dommages éprouvés jusqu'ici.

3. De rechercher les moyens propres de nous assurer la libre possession de nos propriétés, conformément au droit des gens, proclamé une fois de plus par le Traité de Berlin, lequel attribue à la Serbie de nouveaux territoires.

En vous suppliant de bien vouloir prendre en considération ce qui précède, nous prions votre Excellence d'agréer les remercîments anticipés de 150,000 malheureux Musulmans ruinés et sans abri.

Très humbles;

(Signé) CHALID BEY,
Fondé de pouvoirs des Musulmans de Nichc.

(Signé) SULEIMAN AGA,
Fondé de pouvoirs des Musulmans de Lescovatz.

(Signé) NÉVZAD BEY,
Fondé de pouvoirs des Musulmans de Procouplié.

No. 95.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 102.)

Belgrade, June 7, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of the letter which I have this day addressed to the representatives of the Mussulman land-owners at Nisch, Lescowatz, and Procouplié, in conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 29 of the 29th May, and telegram of yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Mr. Locock to Chalid Bey, Suleïman, and Névzad Bey.

Belgrade, June 7, 1882.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform you that the Memorial dated the 24th April, which you addressed to his Lordship in your character as representatives of the Mussulman land-owners at Nisch, Lescowatz, and Procouplié has been duly received.

In reply, I am directed to state to you on behalf of his Lordship that, from the assurances which have been given by the Servian Government to this Legation, Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that a project will, at an early date, be submitted to the Skuptshtina, having for its object to enable the Servian Government to make compensation to the Mussulman proprietors in accordance with the awards of Agrarian Commissions, and that the consent of the Assembly having been obtained, arrangements, already in progress, will be completed for carrying that project into immediate effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 96.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kennedy.

(No. 39.)

Foreign Office, June 13, 1882.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from the Porte complaining of the ill-treatment of the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria by their Christian fellow-

countrymen.* The despatch was communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, and I told his Excellency that I would make inquiries on the subject. I have accordingly to instruct you to furnish me with any information you may be able to obtain with regard to the matters referred to in the despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 97.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 284.) *Vienna, June 15, 1882.*

My Lord,

PRINCE ALEXANDER OF BULGARIA has arrived here on his way back to Sophia, and has been received with distinction and lodged at the Burg Palace.

I understand him to express satisfaction with his visit to St. Petersburgh, having succeeded in the chief object of it, which was to obtain the removal of M. Hitrowo, the Russian Agent, to whose intrigues he attributes a great part of his difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 98.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

E
(No. 108. Confidential.) *Belgrade, June 13, 1882.*

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatches No. 95, Confidential, of the 1st instant, and No. 105 of the 9th instant, on the political crisis in this country, I have the the honour to report as follows:—

The thirty-nine re-elections took place on Sunday the 9th instant, and resulted in all the Radical Members who had been declared ineligible being again re-elected. A few of them were returned without a dissentient vote; the others by an overwhelming majority.

The news caused a good deal of excitement when it became fully known yesterday in the capital, and was the subject of anxious consideration to the King and his Ministers, who met to deliberate on what should next be done, but without coming to any decision of importance.

In the evening there was a family council at the Palace between the King and two or three of his near relatives who are here; the Queen was also present. I am confidentially informed that at this meeting the present crisis, the conduct and objects of the Radicals, the temper of the country, and their possible bearing on the position of His Majesty and his dynasty, were discussed, and it was decided that, sooner than yield to the demands of the Opposition, His Majesty, if necessary, would abdicate.

This morning there was another Cabinet Council, at which the King presided. With rather unwonted calmness, His Majesty informed his Ministers of the consultation and decision of the previous night. I understand that His Majesty spoke with the manner and tone of a man who had made a decision about the wisdom of which he had no doubt, and who was quite ready to make the sacrifice which that decision might entail. The idea of retaining his throne with the aid of Austrian intervention was referred to by His Majesty as one which nothing would induce him to entertain. Ministers were also informed that he would no longer insist on their retaining office against their will.

There has been another meeting of Ministers to-night, without the King, for the purpose of deciding on the proposals which they shall to-morrow submit to him. They are all ready to resign, but some of them are also prepared to remain in office as members of a nominally fresh Cabinet. For it is understood that the King has no desire to retain the services of the present Head of the Cabinet and Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Pirochanatz, while he has shown he is not averse to one or two of the others remaining. The advice which they have decided to offer to the King, and which I understand will be found in accordance with His Majesty's own convictions,

* No. 75.

is to meet the Radicals with a firmness equal to their own. If the present programme is adopted and adhered to, however small a number of votes (in one case it is four) the second candidate has obtained at the poll, he will be declared the duly-elected Member, and will take his seat in the Skuptchina. That Assembly will then resume its sittings, and will be asked to amend the Law which provides for the liberty of the press, to vote the Budget, to approve the new railway contract, and probably also to pass one or two measures of minor importance; it will then be allowed to adjourn. But the plan may be considerably modified by circumstances at present not foreseen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 99.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

E
(No. 110. Confidential.) *Belgrade, June 14, 1882.*

My Lord,

I GLADLY avail myself of an opportunity which has kindly been offered to me by my French colleague of communicating with your Lordship otherwise than through the post, in order to place before your Lordship my impressions of the present state of affairs in Servia, and the passions and influences which are at work.

It may be safely said that ever since the beginning of the present Session of the Skuptchina the Government have displayed a very small amount of tact in dealing with that Assembly. As your Lordship is aware, the Session commenced by the careful exclusion of even a single member of the Opposition from every one of the working Committees, although some of those were composed of as many as fifteen members. Even the Committee for the verification of elections formed no exception. The Opposition was thus deprived of all voice in an important stage of legislation. Finding their party in an apparently safe majority owing to the votes of the King's nominees, the Ministers began to treat the Opposition speakers as though it were a matter of small difference what they said, and as their party was not slow to take up the cue, the scene soon presented itself of noisy recrimination and insult, debate being brought to a close by the interposition of the President, and the question being put to the vote. On one occasion the strange scene was enacted of the Prime Minister rising from his chair, going across to the Vice-President, saying a few words to him in a low tone, and the latter then rising and declaring the debate closed, and the moment come for taking the vote. Then came the crash of the Union Générale, the suspension of the Servian railway construction, and the exaggerated reports of the Servian loss.

Frequent interpellations were put to the Government on the subject, but it persistently refused to afford any information whatever on the subject, although the facts were weekly coming out in the European press. The Opposition at last let it be known that, if some answer were not given, it would leave the Skuptchina in a body. The threat was treated with contempt, and the result is known to your Lordship. Two elections have since been held; at the first the Government managed to gain three or four places, at the second not one, and the constituencies have returned the very same men who have just been declared ineligible by the vote of the majority and by the King's Ukase.

It is loudly asserted that by these acts the Government has violated the Constitution. On this point there is much also to be said on the other side. I only state the accusations against the Government, in order to explain the strong excitement now reigning.

The feeling in the country generally has also been somewhat outraged by the deposition last autumn of the Metropolitan Michael, and its sympathies wounded by the alleged strong Austrian tendencies of the Government, if not the King himself, at a moment when its own are wholly enlisted on the side of the revolted provinces on its border.

On this count also I believe the judgment of the people to be too severe. Others, at all events, give the Servian Government credit for wisdom rather than for love.

But the fact remains that the feeling in the country is at this moment strongly agitated against the Government, and that affairs in the Skuptchina have been so conducted that the two great parties of the Progressists and Radicals regard each other with animosity.

The Radical party especially is unguarded in the expression of its feelings, and is

beginning to hint at an appeal to force as an alternative means for guarding its liberties. In a leader yesterday in its principal organ there occurs the following sentence: "Such unconstitutional conduct can only be put an end to by the all-powerful voice of the Sovereign or by the material force of the people."

Unfortunately there is a deep feeling prevalent that in this matter the voice of the Sovereign will not be so exerted. His Majesty has taken too prominent a part in the whole question at issue, and has identified himself too much with a party, to inspire the country with much hope in this matter. Hence the real danger of the situation. The loyal enthusiasm which seemed to attend the proclamation of a Servian Kingdom has suffered a rude reaction, and words are uttered in suppressed tones which could not be spoken with a raised voice.

In all this Austria is credited with having had indirectly a hand. It is noticed that since the Austrian Legation was raised in rank and increased in number, and since Baron Herbert was replaced by Count Khevenhüller, the attitude of the Ministers has become overbearing and their course of action more determined. It is noticed that the present Representative of Austria-Hungary is a man of greater energy and stronger will than his predecessor, and that his relations with the King and his Ministers are more confidential, and it is believed that his influence is exerted in favour of decisive measures.

My own belief on this point is that Count Khevenhüller has been frequently consulted, and, judging from his character, and from the opinions to which he gives expression when talking with his colleagues on the subject, I can hardly doubt that if consulted his advice would be for heroic remedies. He thinks (as he himself told me since I have begun to write this despatch) that the only way to treat with the Opposition is with the "bâton."

Such, I believe, is not the remedy likely to restore Servian parties to a healthy state of peace and progress. The Servian people are not difficult to rule if treated with moderate consideration and kindness. But they are impregnated with a strong feeling of independence, and they have had unhappy examples in their recent history. A firm but at the same time a reasonable and kind hand is the one likely most easily to lead them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 100.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

E
(No. 115.)

Belgrade, June 16, 1882.

My Lord,

THE second Ministerial crisis has ended like the first, in the Ministers all remaining and adopting the programme alluded to in my despatch No. 108 of the 13th instant.

At an audience with which I happened to be honoured this morning, the King told me that there had at first been some divergence of opinion in the Cabinet as to the course which it would be proper for them to adopt, but that the Ministers were now all convinced that it would not be right for any of them, by retiring, to have the appearance of yielding before what he firmly believed to be the illegality of the Radical obstructionists. His Majesty quoted the rules of the Skuptchina on which he founded his opinion that the course being pursued by the late Radical Members was not conformable therewith, and that their latest election must be treated as null and void. He went on to say that on the Skuptchina reassembling one of the first things it would have to discuss would be certain modifications in the Law of the Press which could enable the Courts to deal more effectually with libel and gross outrage. I noticed that His Majesty made no allusion to Austria, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, or the necessity of Servia's neutrality.

I have, however, little doubt that this is the chief argument which His Majesty used in persuading his Ministers to remain in office.

It is no longer within my power to believe that there have not been intimations of a distinct nature from Austria that the formation of a Radical Ministry, or the arrival by any other means of the Radicals to power, will be immediately followed by an armed intervention. The concurrent testimony which reaches me to that effect is too trustworthy to be doubted. I have noticed only a portion of it in my telegraphic despatches.

Accepting this as a fact, it would appear that the King is acting wisely to retain at all costs the advisers which inspire his powerful neighbour with some amount of confidence. But the policy on the success of which the Cabinet, if not the King himself, is staking its existence will require a determined will and a strong hand to follow. Many of the candidates whose names come out second on the lists are now to be called on to take their seats in the Skuptchina to-morrow, instead of those for whom the electors have in many cases declared in the proportion of over 100 to 1.

It would be idle not to recognize the danger which exists from such a state of things. The feeling in the capital is intense, and unless quickly appeased it will find expression in deeds of violence. It is believed by many that there is going to be bloodshed, and the question as to which of the officers of the army may be counted on to adopt the people's cause is being canvassed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 101.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

E
(No. 118. Confidential.)

Belgrade, June 16, 1882.

My Lord,

THIS evening I had a long confidential interview with M. Mijatovitch, the present Minister of Finance, on the state of the country.

I found his Excellency deeply impressed with the gravity of the situation. He would not admit that I was right in my information that the hour was not even yet passed for the possibility of an agreement with the Opposition. He maintained, on the contrary, that the Radicals were determined to push the King and the Government to extremities, and that not even the certainty of foreign armed intervention would make them relax their efforts to gain their ends. He said that the excitement in the interior had quite recently increased to an alarming extent, and that there were indications that a revolution was on the point of breaking out; that the Government was determined at all hazards to suppress it with vigour, and that I should, in all probability, see bloodshed within the next five days; it could no longer be avoided.

I used my best endeavours to persuade him that the Opposition was not animated by the unpatriotic animosity which he ascribed to it; that, on the contrary, my information was to the effect that its leaders were still ready to agree on some basis of reconciliation, and we discussed together the possibility of finding some such means. But his Excellency remained apparently firm in the conviction that the hour for compromise and conciliation was passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 102.

Mr. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)

E
(No. 53.)

Sophia, June 15, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your Lordship's despatch No. 33 of the 20th ultimo, instructing me to unofficially call the attention of M. Natchovitch to the acts of cruelty committed by Bulgarians on their Mussulman neighbours in the Consular district of Rustchuk.

Your Lordship will see by my preceding despatch that I had already anticipated your wishes on this subject. I now have the honour to inclose a précis by Mr. Graves of a Circular which has been addressed to the Local Governors by the Minister of the Interior, giving them detailed instructions as to the manner in which the new Regulations for the maintenance of public order and security throughout the Principality are to be enforced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Précis of a Circular addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the District Governors respecting the Measures to be taken for the Suppression of Brigandage.

THE following measures have been proposed and approved in view of the increase of brigandage in the eastern portion of the Principality, and the District Governors are charged to execute them faithfully.

Strict orders are to be given to the Mayors of communes to insist upon the fulfilment of patrolling duties, to which all able-bodied male inhabitants between the ages of 20 and 50 are liable. Recalcitrants are to be severely punished.

Weapons are to be distributed to the population in those communes where there are not enough to arm the patrols.

These arms are confided to the Mayor, and are distributed upon his responsibility and that of the Communal Council of Elders, who are also responsible that the arms be kept in good condition, and not employed for other purposes than those intended.

The communal patrols may be called upon in case of need to serve beyond the borders of their own communes.

The Mayors, Communal Councils, and Notables of each village will be held responsible for the maintenance of order, and the authorities are empowered to arrest, imprison, and, if need be, expel suspects.

Those communes which fail to perform their patrolling duties and repress brigandage are punishable by fines.

Mayors and Communal Councils are only to be regarded as free from responsibility when they have satisfactorily proved that they have done all in their power for the repression of brigandage.

Brigands and their accomplices when arrested are not to be released before trial on any conditions whatsoever.

The fines to be levied on communes are to be decided by a Commission consisting of the highest functionaries of the capital of the district, presided over by the Governor.

This Commission decides without appeal, but forwards a Report to the Ministry, by which the decision must be confirmed.

The special secret agents to be employed to assist in the repression of brigandage are to receive 500 fr. monthly.

The District Governors are recommended to show special activity at the present juncture. They are to lose no time in convening the Mayors of communes in their districts, and informing them of the measures which are to be taken, the reasons which have prompted them, and the responsibility which they involve.

It is considered advisable that the District Governors should undertake a tour throughout those parts of their provinces which are affected, for the purpose of explaining to the population why these measures are being enforced, and pointing out the difference between the system followed by the Turks of disarming the Bulgarians, and not allowing them to oppose the brigands, and the present system of arming the population against the evil-doers, and giving them the right of taking them alive or killing them.

Every Saturday a detailed Report of the events of the week is to be sent in to the Ministry.

As the Constantinople press has thrown the blame of the present brigandage on the Bulgarians, for the future, whenever a brigand is captured or killed, he is, if possible, to be identified, and a *procès-verbal* to be drawn up showing his name, village, &c., and, if possible, also signed by any Turks who may happen to be on the spot. This *procès-verbal* is to be immediately communicated by telegraph to the Ministry with full details.

(Signed) NATCHOVITCH.

No. 103.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 26.*)

(No. 468.) *Constantinople, June 18, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli respecting the frequent incursions of Macedonian brigands into Eastern Roumelia, and the measures taken by the local authorities to prevent them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

Philippopoli, June 9, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the local authorities have judged it expedient, for the purpose of checking the frequent incursions of Macedonian brigands into this province, especially during the summer months, to exercise a stringent control and supervision over the movements of the nomad shepherds, whose aid and sympathy, whether enforced or otherwise, has been the mainstay hitherto of these marauders, providing them with food and shelter, when otherwise reduced to extremities, and thus enabling them, too frequently, to set at naught all efforts of the police for their capture.

It is resolved, therefore, that these nomads (Wallachs) be suffered to pasture their flocks on the Rhodope and Despoto Dagh, as hitherto, solely on the following conditions:—

Each shepherd to be provided with a passport signed by the proper authorities.

No stranger to be suffered to take up his abode, or even pass the night, in the nomad encampments.

The provincial authorities to be furnished with a full list of all persons belonging to the several encampments, and in case of any one of these absenting himself without due cause, and the Headman being unable to account satisfactorily for his absence, the latter subjects himself to a fine of £ T. 500.

Seventeen provincial gendarmes to be distributed among the several encampments to watch that no communication exist between the shepherds and the brigands. In the event of these appearing in the neighbourhood, they are to organize the efforts of the former for their capture. All charges for the maintenance of these gendarmes to be borne by the encampments.

The shepherds to be provided with proper arms for use against the brigands.

They are likewise to watch that no destructive fires break out in the forest, and should they occur, they are to use their best endeavours to speedily extinguish the same, and also to deliver up the incendiary to justice. If, in spite of these remedial measures, the brigands should again make their appearance on this side of the frontier, the Chiefs of the nomads agree to surrender all right to pasture their flocks next summer in the affected districts; and in the event of the above conditions not being loyally fulfilled by the nomads, they recognize the right of the Roumelian Government to expel them at once beyond the frontier.

The foregoing stipulations may seem somewhat harsh and oppressive towards the nomads, who have, however, agreed to accept them in their integrity. It must, nevertheless, be admitted that the plague of brigandage needs drastic remedies for its eradication, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the result of the above may fully justify their application.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 104.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 26.)

(No. 31.)

Sir, *Vienna, June 22, 1882.*

THE Emperor, in talking to me yesterday at Bruck, alluded in hopeful terms to the pacification of Herzegovina and Dalmatia and to the state of Bosnia.

His Majesty said that the recruiting in Bosnia had been on the whole successfully carried out, but that the critical moment of the conscription in Herzegovina had not been yet reached.

In the Bocche de Cattaro 120 men had been sworn in for the Landwehr. It remained to be seen if they would come out for the eight weeks' exercise to take place in October.

The district of the Krivosje is entirely depopulated; all its inhabitants, to the number of 800, are in the neighbourhood of Niksics, in Montenegrin territory; "and, for my part," said His Majesty, "I hope they will remain there. The Krivosje is a wild, barren little tract of ground that can very well remain deserted, especially if the alternative is to have a savage clan of settlers who are both irreconcileable and untameable."

His Majesty continued by telling me that his advanced troops still met with occasional resistance, and that "on the 9th June a band of Slav insurgents, known to have been organized in Bulgaria by Mitrovo, the late Russian Consul-General, and led by Russian officers, forced its way into Herzegovina through the Sandjak of Novi Bazar, and summoned the Commander of an Austrian post (Visina, near Foca) to surrender. The insurgent leader spoke German. After a skirmish of some hours, the insurgents were forced to retire, but they have not been definitely dispersed."

The total number of refugees in Montenegro is stated to be 6,000; some of these, for instance the men of Orahovac, did not take active part in the rebellion, but they evaded the conscription, and most declined to return to their homes, in order to avoid facing that unpopular measure.

The troops are still at the effective they maintained during the war, but the men called out from the South Dalmatian Landwehr (two battalions) have been dismissed to their homes, and their places supplied by moving two battalions of Jagers to Cattaro and Ragusa.

The Administration of Bosnia is to be a civil one, under a military head, with Count R. Khevenhuller as "Adlatus." Count Dahlen, the present General in command there, who for two years has scarcely been able to move out of his house, will probably be replaced.

I am told it is difficult to describe the mischief done by the jealousies of the different nationalities employed in the civil offices in Bosnia, and by the bad appointments made to the military ones.

On the principle of the penal companies of the French army in Algeria, if any officer has damaged his reputation, or made an absence from his regiment desirable, he is at once drafted off to some position in Bosnia, and there neither his tact nor his experience redeem the character his conduct has given him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Grenadier Guards,
Military Attaché.

No. 105.

E *Mr. Kennedy to Earl Granville—(Received June 26.)*

(No. 52.)

My Lord, *Sophia, June 12, 1882.*

IN his despatch No. 45 of the 12th ultimo, Mr. Lascelles had the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copy of a note and of a Memorandum which he had addressed to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to acts of cruelty inflicted by Bulgarians on Mussulman inhabitants in the Consular district of Rustchuk, which had come to the notice of Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel.

The Reports transmitted since then to the Italian Acting Agent here by his Vice-Consul at Rustchuk more than confirm Mr. Dalziel's statements, and the Turkish

Commissioner in Bulgaria has also received many complaints and detailed accounts of the sufferings inflicted by Bulgarians on the Mussulman inhabitants of those districts where the latter form the majority of the land-owning population, with the apparent object of forcing them to leave the country and to surrender their property to their persecutors; whilst from Varna the British Vice-Consul writes that the "emigration of Mussulmans is still going on, partly owing to their dislike to military service, and partly in consequence of their sheep and cattle being stolen by their Bulgarian neighbours," and that "brigands, stated by the local authorities to be Turks, pass and repass over the Roumanian frontier, but as they seem invariably to have attacked and robbed Mussulmans only, they are very probably Bulgarians in Turkish disguise."

I have on several occasions alluded to these reports in conversation with the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and his Excellency, who has always maintained that they are considerably exaggerated, and that, in the majority of cases, the aggressors as well as the victims are Mussulmans, nevertheless has not denied that they reveal the existence of a state of things reflecting discredit on the police organization of the country, and calling for the serious attention of the Central Government; and he has assured me that, in his capacity of Minister of the Interior, he has been engaged in devising Regulations for the guidance and assistance of the Prefects and other local authorities, which he hoped would have the effect of checking the evil, and of affording security for life and property to all the inhabitants of the Principality, and further, that he has applied to the Council of State for the grant of an extra sum of money for the purpose of sending additional gendarmes to the more specially disturbed districts.

I now have the honour of inclosing a translation of the Minister's official Report to the Prince, together with His Highness' assent to the proposals submitted to him, which has been published in the official journal of the 11th instant.

By the new Regulations a yearly grant of 6,000 fr. for the payment of secret police agents is provided, and a sum of 40,000 fr. is placed at the disposal of the Ministry of the Interior to be devoted to the maintenance of internal peace and order. Each district and village is held responsible for the offences of undetected criminals; the arrest, and, if necessary, the expulsion of "suspects" is authorized, and the local authorities are empowered to quarter troops at the expense of the inhabitants in those districts where the police may require the assistance of the military.

It now remains to be seen how far the Prefects and local Governors are capable of properly exercising the somewhat extended discretionary powers intrusted to them, and whether these new Regulations drawn up avowedly for the purpose of checking brigandage and petty crime in general, may not, some day, prove a powerful weapon in the hands of a Government desirous of suppressing its political opponents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROB. J. KENNEDY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Report No. 4114.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Sophia, May 26, 1882.*

YOUR Highness is aware that, notwithstanding the energetic measures which have been and are being taken on the part of the Government for four years past against brigandage in the eastern part of the Principality, it has not been possible to extirpate the evil. This summer, again, bands of brigands have made their appearance, and keep both the authorities and the population in a constant state of inquietude. Last year, when brigandge began to make its appearance, three of the most experienced of the then local Governors, those of Shumla, Eski Djuma, and Rasgrad, met at Eski Djuma, and after discussing the best means of suppressing brigandage, forwarded to the Ministry, for approbation, the following proposed measures:—

1. That a sum of 6,000 fr. be granted for their disposal yearly, to engage secret police agents, who are to watch every movement among the Turkish population, as well as all persons having the aspect of secret emissaries, and people regarded as suspicious, and, in general, every kind of conspiracy tending to infringe order and security.

2. That the District Governors have the right of distributing, proportionately to

the guilt, the fines on villages which have not fulfilled their patrolling obligations or have harboured brigands.

3. That the Governors have the right of levying from the inhabitants of guilty villages all damages caused to the Treasury, or to private individuals within their limits, if they have done nothing for the prevention of brigandage.

4. That persons who have not been actually taken in the act of brigandage and handed over to justice, but who are regarded by their neighbours as suspects, and who cannot find bail, be detained by the police for examination.

5. If they cannot, after a detention of two or three weeks, clear themselves nor find bail, they are to be expelled from the place where they might be dangerous, and settled in other villages and places where they can no longer threaten or disturb public order and tranquillity.

6. If these measures are found too weak, the Governors are allowed, in concert with the military authorities, to plant military posts in some of the central villages, to be maintained by the population of the villages round these central points.

The late Government, although they approved most of these measures, put off their carrying into execution until later.

As the necessity arises again, the Ministry referred the matter to the judgment of the Council of Ministers, which, while sanctioning them, charged me to apply to the Council of State for the grant of the sum of money required, and the Council of State, in its Extraordinary Session of the 20th instant, resolved unanimously to open a provisional credit of 40,000 fr. for the Ministry of the Interior.

I therefore have the honour most humbly to beg your Highness to order that 40,000 fr. be applied from the general residue of the current Budget for the above purpose. If your Highness approve this my proposal, I beg that you will graciously sign the accompanying Ukase.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. NATCHOVITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Ukase No. 358.

(Translation.)

WE, Alexander, &c.

On the proposal of our Minister of the Interior, laid before us in his Report of the 26th May, 1882 (No. 4114), have ordered and order:—

1. That, conformably with the decision taken by the Council of State, there be placed at the disposal of the Minister of the Interior, a provisory credit of 40,000 fr., to be employed for the prevention and suppression of brigandage in the eastern portion of the Principality.

2. That the above-mentioned sum be taken from the general residue of the current Budget.

3. That our Minister of the Interior be charged with the execution of the present Ukase.

Given at Sophia, the 26th May, 1882.

By His Highness' orders for the Council of Regency,
(Signed) LESSOVOI.
(Countersigned) NATCHOVITCH.

No. 106.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, June 29, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I DID not fail to instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Athens to make inquiries with regard to the murders of Dervish Effendi and of a man named Djelil in Thessaly, to which your Excellency called my attention when communicating to me the telegraphic despatch from the Porte of the 10th March last.

I regret to have to state that the truth of the outrages reported to your Excellency's Government is confirmed by the information obtained by Her Majesty's Minister, but it is a source of satisfaction for me to be able to inform your Excellency that M. Tricoupi

has assured Mr. Ford that the assassins of Dervish Effendi, five in number, were captured towards the end of last month at Agia, in Thessaly, and are now in prison.

M. Tricoupi has further informed Her Majesty's Minister that active measures are being taken for the discovery and apprehension of the murderers of Djelil, and his Excellency has every reason to hope they will prove successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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